

CURRENT AFFAIRS E-BOOK

DECEMBER 2023

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Art and Culture Current Affairs

PM Modi launched world's largest meditation centre Swarved Mahamandir

- Swarved Mahamandir is a magnificent seven-floor temple with 125-petal lotus domes.
- It is located in Umaraha area of Varanasi.
- The Prime Minister and UP CM Yogi Adityanath took a tour of the center that can seat 20,000 people at a time for meditation.
- The Mahamandir houses the idol of Sadguru Sadafal Deoji Maharaj, a 19th-century spiritual leader and the founder of Vihangam Yoga.

A statue of Thiruvalluvar unveiled in French town of Cergy

- A statue of Thiruvalluvar, regarded a cultural icon by Tamils, was inaugurated in the French town of Cergy.
- Thiruvalluvar was an Indian poet and philosopher.
- He is best known as the author of the Tirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love.
- The text is considered an exceptional and widely cherished work of Tamil literature.

AATCOC to Launch the first-ever Asian Hajj and Umrah Expo at Delhi

- Asian Arab Trade Chamber of Commerce announces Asian Hajj and Umrah Expo 2024, fostering religious exchange and supporting pilgrimage businesses.
- Numerous partners including airlines, sponsors and travel companies will aid in ensuring a seamless, enriching pilgrimage experience.
- The event will feature innovative technology solutions, comprehensive media coverage, tourism, etc.

34th International Konark Dance Festival began in Puri, Odisha

- The 34th International Konark Dance Festival commenced at Konark Sun Temple in Odisha's Puri district, being one of the largest dance festivals in Odisha.
- This festival has been organised in the state jointly by Odisha Tourism and Odissi Research Centre.
- It aims to promote the diverse Indian dance heritage as well as the popularity of Konark Temple.

Three-day Rajgir Mahotsav to showcase heritage of Nalanda & Rajgir

- The much-awaited Rajgir Mahotsav is back in Bihar and is being held from November 30 to December 2.
- The three-day mahotsav, organised by the State Tourism Department in association with Nalanda district administration, will be a tourism attraction and boost local economy.
- According to Bihar Tourism, Rajgir Mahotsav is a representation of history, religion, art, and culture.



Awards and Honours Current Affairs

P Indira Devi, ICAR Emeritus professor, got ISAE fellowship

- P Indira Devi, ICAR Emeritus professor at Kerala Agricultural University, has been conferred the title of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) Fellow 2023.
- She is the first person from Kerala to receive this honor.
- This prestigious title recognizes her significant contributions to agricultural economics and rural development.

L.P. Hemanth K Srinivasulu received 'Man of the Year 2023' Award

- Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu has been honored with the "Man of the Year-2023" award by India's Home Minister, for his significant contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations.
- He is the Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council.
- He has held pivotal roles in various multinational corporations, successfully navigating the challenges of international trade.

Kohinoor Group clinched Best Brands 2023 Award

- Kohinoor Group won the Best Brands of 2023 award at a function in Mumbai, reflecting its 40-year legacy in Pune's real estate sector and visionary initiatives.
- Under Krishnakumar Goyal's leadership, Kohinoor transformed from a family-run entity to a professionally managed organization.
- Kohinoor Group introduced E-registration services promising customer support and home-buying convenience.

Ketki Raut clinched the Miss Maharashtra 2023 title

- Ketki Raut was crowned as Miss Maharashtra 2023, and Dr. Shaliga Bhatnagar secured the Mrs. Maharashtra 2023 title, along with the Beauty with Purpose award.
- The third edition of Miss and Mrs. Maharashtra beauty pageant was concluded in Bandra, Mumbai, organized by Amisha Chaudhary.
- The jury comprised diverse field personalities, including actresses, titleholders, and media entrepreneurs.

R Srikrishna received recognition at India's Impactful CEOs Conclave

- Hexaware's CEO R Srikrishna was honoured at the third edition of India's Impactful CEOs Conclave.
- The event was organized by ET Edge of The Times Group.
- Srikrishna's award signifies his exceptional leadership in driving positive change for the customers, industry, and reinforcing Hexaware's objective of creating smiles through technology and people.

PFC bags SAFA Gold Award for best-presented accounts annual report

- The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has been awarded the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Gold Award 2021-22 for Best Presented Accounts in the Public Sector Entities category.
- This marks the first time since the award's inception in 1997 that an Indian company has won gold in this category for two consecutive years, with PFC also winning in 2020-21.

Sukrita Paul Kumar won 6th Rabindranath Tagore literary prize.

- Sukrita Paul Kumar received the 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for her book, 'Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems'.
- The poet stated that it not only validates her artistic journey but also underscores the universality of storytelling in bridging diverse cultures.
- The prize also awards contributions to world peace, literature, art, education, and human right.

Movate wins 'AI & Data' category at Inc. best in business awards 2023

- Digital technology provider Movate garnered the 'AI & Data' Accolade at the Inc. 2023 Best in Business Awards.
- Movate received recognition for its generative AI platform, Movate Athena, designed to drive business growth and customer experiences.
- Winning showcases Movate's commitment to leveraging AI-powered business transformation, and its dedication to impactful innovation.

UNESCO honours Punjab's Rambagh Gate project with award of excellence.

- UNESCO rewards the Rambagh Gate and Ramparts project in Punjab with the 'Award of Excellence' for its inclusivity and community access.
- Bikaner House in Delhi and Church of Epiphany in Haryana receive an 'Award of Merit.'
- UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards applaud efforts in restoring and conserving heritage structures across the region.

Savita Punia and Hardik Singh won Prestigious FIH Awards.

- Savita Punia has been acknowledged by the Sports Minister for winning the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive time.
- Hardik Singh was hailed by Thakur for winning the 2023 FIH Player of the Year (Male), noting his precision, attack orchestration, and influence on budding hockey players.

President awarded Crompton-Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year

- Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL) won the 2023 National Energy Conservation Award for its storage water heater, conferred by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.
- The award underlines Crompton's commitment to energy efficiency.
- The CGCEL's BEE 5-star rated storage water heater model, Arno Neo 3015, provides energy savings and advanced features for consumers.

Cadila Pharmaceuticals Honored in CII's 'Top 50 Innovative Companies.

- Cadila Pharmaceuticals earned a spot in CII's 'Top 50 Innovative Companies in India' 2023 for its dedication to innovation.
- Raj Prakash Vyas, President of Cadila's Corporate Affairs, received the award amidst key industry personalities.
- Cadila's innovations, like Rabeloc IV, signify their commitment to advancing healthcare and addressing public health issues.

Sahitya Akademi announced its 2023 Awards in 24 Languages.

- Tamil author Rajasekaran, Telugu writer Patanjali Sastry, and Malayalam litterateur EV Ramakrishnan are among the winners.
- The accolades included nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays, and one literary study.
- The award ceremony will take place on March 12th next year, with winners receiving a copper-plaque, shawl, and a cash prize of one lakh rupees.

NTPC Kanti received FICCI Water Award 2023 for water use efficiency

- NTPC Kanti received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.
- The award acknowledges NTPC Kanti's notable water conservation efforts and efficient use of water resources in its operations.
- The company has also launched awareness campaigns to promote responsible water usage among employees and the local community.

IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award

- Pradip Kumar Das, CMD of IREDA, was honoured with the "CMD of the Year" award for the second consecutive year at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards acknowledging his leadership and significant contributions to the renewable energy sector.
- IREDA also bagged runner-up accolades, emphasizing its commitment to operational, governance, socio-environmental excellence, and inclusivity.

Wells Fargo Hyderabad Tower 4 secured LEED v4.1 Platinum Certification

- Wells Fargo Hyderabad Tower 4 became the world's largest building to receive the LEED v4.1 (CI-Commercial Interior) Platinum certification, showcasing their commitment to sustainable infrastructure.
- The 1.2 million sq ft Leasable Tower prioritizes energy-efficient HVAC and lighting, reduces potable water use by 85.44%, and offsets energy consumption with Renewable Energy Certificates.

Leif Erikson Lunar Prize awarded to ISRO for Chandrayaan-3 achievement

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been bestowed with the esteemed Leif Erikson Lunar Prize by the Husavik Museum.
- Indian Ambassador Balasubramanian Shyam accepted the prestigious prize on behalf of ISRO.

- This achievement positioned India as the fourth nation, following the United States, China, and Russia, to achieve a successful lunar landing.

Dr Poonam Khetrapal bagged Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal

- Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk honoured Dr Khetrapal, an Indian national, at Bhutan's 116th National Day celebration in Thimpu.
- Retired Punjab cadre IAS officer of 1975 batch and WHO South-East Asia regional director Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's prestigious National Order of Merit Gold Medal for her distinguished services to the country.

Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2023 announced

- The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2023 has been jointly won by Against All Odds: The IT Story of India (Penguin publication) by Kris Gopalakrishnan, N Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan, and Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs (Penguin publication) by TN Hari and Bala Srinivasa.
- The Rs 15 lakh cash prize has been jointly won by the authors of two books this year

Woods resort at Sasan grabbed IGBC Green Resorts Platinum Rating

- Woods resort, a luxury retreat in Sasan Gir, is the first resort in the region to achieve the Platinum rating from the Indian Green Building Council in the Green Resorts category.
- Their eco-initiatives encompass energy-efficient operations, high percentage of green cover, net-zero water status, garnering them official recognition at the 21st Green Building Congress.

Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal received prestigious International Doctorate

- Dr. Nitin Mohan Lal, a renowned psychologist, practitioner, and life coach, received an honorary doctorate recognizing his substantial contributions to healing and personal development.
- Dr. Lal has empowered more than 1 Lakh individuals, mostly through his courses, seminars, counseling services, and books.
- He's particularly interested in guiding healers toward financial independence.

Reliance Nippon Life Insurance won National Energy Conservation Awards

- Reliance Nippon Life Insurance has won the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023, recognizing their efforts in climate-friendly operations and sustainable growth.
- The company's innovations include natural lighting use, smart cooling, lighting solutions, IoT-based remote control devices for branch operations, and resulted in a 34% savings in energy cost.

Promax Global Awards 2023: Shemaroo Entertainment clinched 13 trophies

- Shemaroo Entertainment secured 13 trophies at the Promax Global Excellence Awards 2023, taking their total Promax trophies count to 117.
- The company bagged 6 golds for categories such as In-House Program Promo Campaign and Sound Design, along with 2 silver and 5 bronze awards.
- The company became the first Indian company to be a finalist for 'Creative Marketing Team of the Year.'



Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' won Best film award at KIFF Festival

- 219 films from 39 countries were screened at Kolkata International Film Festival at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata.
- Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' directed by Erez Tadmor, has won the Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images.
- The Best Director award was bagged by Carlos Daniel Malave.
- Anjan Dutta's 'Chalchitro Ekhon' bagged the Special Jury Award.

Rijul Maini crowned Miss India USA 2023

- Rijul Maini, a medical student from Michigan, won the Miss India USA 2023 title.
- Saloni Rammohan won Miss Teen title.
- Sneha Nambiar earned Mrs India USA title.
- The pageant, organised by Dharmatma and Neelam Saran, is the oldest Indian pageant outside India, marking its 41st year.
- Maini aims to become a surgeon and inspire women worldwide through her success and example.

Professor Savita Ladage to get Royal Society of Chemistry Prize

- Professor Savita Ladage from Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, an autonomous institute affiliated to Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been selected by the London-based Royal Society of Chemistry to receive its Nyholm Prize for Education.
- A resident of Mumbai, Ladage will be honoured for her contribution to the importance of chemical education.

Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath, Honored with Visionary Leader Icon Award

- Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath, Chairman of Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd, earned the Visionary Leader Icon Award 2023 from AASRAA.
- His commitment to social responsibility and empowerment highlighted his influential role in consumer protection.
- This accolade adds to his achievements, including the Times of India - Fastest Growing Real Estate Brand and the Global ICON Award at G20 Summit.

68th National Railways Awards conferred at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

- 68th Railway Week Central Function – Ati Vishist Rail Seva Puraskar-2023 is being organised at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan.
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred the Award to best performing Railway personnel for promoting best practices among Railway employees.
- Altogether, 100 Railway Employees from all over the country were awarded for their outstanding services.

BBG Foundation becomes winner of Telangana Business Awards

- BBG Foundation's commitment to girls' education earned it the title of Best Girl Child Empowerment Program - Initiative of the Year by the Telangana Business Awards.

- It has favorably affected 1.6 lakh beneficiaries via five programs focusing on enrollment, foundational skills, and confidence-building among out-of-school girls.
- The organisation aims to empower 2 million girls by 2040.

Ali Abu Awwad, Daniel Barenboim won Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- The International Jury of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace was chaired by former CJI T.S. Thakur.

Droupadi Murmu to confer awards on National Energy Conservation Day

- President Droupadi Murmu will confer to winners of the National Energy Conservation Awards 2023, National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards 2023, and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2023, in New Delhi.
- These awards will be presented to a total of 63 winners on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, which is celebrated on 14th December every year.

Founder and CEO: Bipin Chandra Bags Champion of Change Award

- Esyssoft Technologies' visionary Founder and CEO, Bipin Chandra, was honoured with the "Champions of Change Award (Karnataka)" by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE), a non-profit organization recognized by Govt. of India, for his outstanding leadership and transformative impact.
- Chandra received a Gold Medal and a Citation from the Governor of Karnataka.

Satwik Sairaj & Chirag Shetty nominated for Khel Ratna Award

- Men's doubles badminton pair of Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been selected for the Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- The Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award, is the highest sporting honour of India.
- It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- The badminton pair has been ranked as the number 1 pair in the BWF World Ranking.

Startek honored as one of India's Best Workplaces in IT-BPM

- Startek is recognized by Great Place To Work® India among India's Best Workplaces™ in IT & IT-BPM for 2023.
- This award highlights Startek's inclusive work environment, valuing diversity, innovation, and satisfaction.
- The company's leadership emphasized their values and the importance of teamwork.
- Startek, a global CX solutions provider is committed to delivering excellence in the workplace.

Annual Social Innovator Fellowship Program: Schaeffler India

- Schaeffler India announced winners of 2nd Edition of the Annual Social Innovator Fellowship Program.

- Schaeffler India's CSR initiatives, including the Social Innovator Fellowship Program, underscore the company's dedication to sustainable development.
- Through these efforts, Schaeffler India continues to contribute to the social and economic development of the communities it serves.

Dr Atul Shah got Game-Changing Innovator Award at COP28 summit

- Dr Shah's comprehensive self-care kit tackled the issue of foot ulcers and patient isolation, empowering people afflicted with leprosy.
- Some three decades ago, he discovered, surgery without special equipment could tackle deformities in leprosy-affected patients.
- He soon published an article about "one in four lasso" operative techniques in the European Journal of Hand Surgery.

Writer Pushpa Bharati's memoir selected for Vyas Samman award

- Instituted in 1991, the award is given to an outstanding Hindi literary work by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
- It carries a cash prize of ₹4 lakh, a citation and a plaque.
- Noted Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein, has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman, 2023, the KK Birla Foundation has said.

Actor Kabir Bedi awarded Italy's civilian honour 'Order of Merit'

- The scroll of honour presented along with the 'Order of Merit' was signed by the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella and counter-signed by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.
- The Order of Merit is the Italy's highest honour.
- Kabir Bedi is an Indian actor. His career has spanned three continents covering India, the United States and especially Italy among other European countries.

International Gender Equality Prize 2023 went to an Afghanistan NGO

- Finland awarded the International Gender Equality Prize for 2023 to an NGO in Afghanistan that works to promote and protect the rights of women in Afghanistan.
- The organisation Afghan Women Skills Development Center does important humanitarian work to promote the safety of Afghan women.
- Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo presented the EUR 300,000 Prize to the organisation's representative.

Ban Ki-moon honoured with 2023 Diwali 'Power of One' Awards at UN

- Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and 3 veteran diplomats were here honoured with the annual 'Diwali Power of One Awards'.
- This award is hailed as the 'Oscars of diplomacy'.
- The other awardees are Bosnia and Herzegovina representative to the UN Ambassador Mirsada Colakovic, South Korea representative to the UN Ambassador Kim Sook, 72nd UN General Assembly president Miroslav Lajcak.

Taylor Swift named Time Magazine's person of the year

- Taylor Swift has capped off a stellar 2023 by being named Time Magazine's person of the year.
- The award goes to an event or person deemed to have had the most influence on global events over the past year.
- Time Magazine announced its shortlist of nine candidates for the title.
- Those included Chinese President Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Barbie and the striking Hollywood actors and writers.

Nikhil Dey named as International Anti-Corruption champion by US Govt.

- Indian social activist Nikhil Dey has been recognized as the International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department for his dedicated efforts against corruption in government welfare programs in India.
- Dey's work has led to significant anti-corruption and transparency reforms in India, particularly in Rajasthan.
- US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti extended his congratulations.

Javed Akhtar to be honoured at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival

- Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.
- Akhtar is the co-writer of Hindi cinema classics such as "Zanjeer", "Deewaar", "Sholay", "Don", "Mr India", etc.
- The award ceremony will take place at Rukmini Auditorium in MGM University campus of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on January 3, 2024.

Azentio Software won honours at IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards

- Azentio Software, a Singapore-based tech firm, won two awards at the 5th IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2023.
- The awards celebrate advances in emerging technology in the banking and finance sectors, with this edition acknowledging innovative implementations across 30 categories, involving over 250 nominated projects from 49 countries.

Scientist Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar awarded Karmaveer Chakra Medal

- Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship.
- The award was presented by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations.
- These awards recognized Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar's exceptional contributions to Research & Development in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.

6 change makers acknowledged at 24th LTIMindtree Helen Keller Awards

- The 24th NCPEDP-LTIMindtree Helen Keller Awards recognized 16 individuals and organizations striving to foster inclusivity and diversity in India's job market, particularly for the disabled.

- Winners spanned across nine states, applauded for their efforts as Role Models, Supporters of Increased Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and Role Model Companies/NGOs/Institutions.

Red Sea Int Film: Tarsem Singh Dhandwar's 'Dear Jassi' wins big

- "Dear Jassi", a film inspired by a real-life honour killing in Punjab, won the Silver Yusr Award for best feature film at the ongoing Red Sea International Film Festival 2023.
- Directed by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar, the Punjabi-English romance drama was honoured with the accolade at a ceremony held in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah.

Siddharth Roy Kapur to receive honour from Motion Picture Association

- Producer Siddharth Roy Kapur will be felicitated with the Motion Picture Association Asia-Pacific Copyright Educator of the Year Award for his contributions towards the growth and development of the Indian film industry.
- Movies made under Roy Kapur productions "The Sky Is Pink", "Last Film Show", "Pippa" and web series "Rocket Boys".
- He will receive award, in CineAsia Awards 2023 in Bangkok.

"Movate" won Nasscom Digital Skills Award 2023

- Movate - previously known as CSS Corp, a digital technology and CX services provider - has won the inaugural NASSCOM Digital Skills Award 2023.
- As part of its award-winning approach, Movate provides tailored training programmes for its staff, and collaborates with over 150 colleges to help students gain skills needed for opportunities within the IT and ITeS sectors.

'Garba' dance included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list

- UNESCO has approved the inclusion of Gujarat's traditional Garba dance in its 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.
- India had nominated Garba, performed across Gujarat and in many other parts of the country during the Navratri festival, for inclusion in the list.

Banking Current Affairs

NPCI introduced ASBA-like facility for secondary market.

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) unveils 'UPI for Secondary Market' in beta phase for equity cash segment.
- ASBA-like facility allows investors to block funds in bank accounts, debited upon trade confirmation during settlement.
- HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank customers can initially avail of this service, facilitated by brokerage app 'Groww' and UPI apps 'BHIM' and 'Yes Pay Next'.

RBI approved IDFC-IDFC First Bank merger

- The Reserve Bank of India has affirmed the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking arm IDFC First Bank.
- The merger involves IDFC Financial Holding Co. merging into IDFC, then IDFC into IDFC First Bank.
- Post-merger, IDFC First Bank will be fully owned by institutional and public shareholders, similar to HDFC Bank, having no promoter entity.

Monthly Revision December: Banking - I

- Unclaimed deposits in Indian banks rose by 28% at ₹42k crore in 2023
- LIC to digitally transform with Kellton as its HRMS partner
- IndusInd Bank unveiled 'Indus Solitaire Program'
- Kotak Mahindra Bank, IIT Kanpur launched Kotak School of Sustainability
- Federal Bank: Outstanding Achievement in Climate Lending and Reporting
- SBI to sign 70 million euro LoC with KfW for solar projects

Monthly Revision December: Banking - II

- Presence of Indian banks via subsidiaries increased to 417 in FY23
- RBI authorises Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to railway employee
- Bank of India launched 'Nari Shakti Savings Account'
- RBI cancelled licence of U.P.'s Urban Co-op Bank Ltd.
- RBI cancels licence of Kolhapur-based bank
- RBI inked pact with Bank of England on bond clearing settlement

IndusInd Bank launched 'eSvarna', first RuPay corporate credit card

- IndusInd Bank has launched 'eSvarna', India's first corporate credit card on the RuPay network, integrating UPI with a corporate credit card and allowing for UPI payments via linked apps.
- It aims to provide corporates with unique service offerings, benefits and seamless UPI-enabled payments.
- Added benefits of the card include fuel surcharge waiver and comprehensive travel insurance coverage.

Bank of Maharashtra's Comprehensive Suite of New Products and Services



- Bank of Maharashtra celebrated Maha Parivartan Diwas, unveiling a range of digital products and services.
- Initiatives include Straight Through Processes in PMSVANidhi and Digital Mudra schemes, automated MSME loan renewals, and enhanced features on its WhatsApp banking service, including greater options for debit card management and consolidated account information.

RBL Bank Introduces Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform

- Collaboration with NeSL enables RBL Bank to launch a paperless, secure electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) product.
- The fully digital e-BG supports instant issuance and confirmation, enhancing the value proposition for RBL Bank clients.
- NeSL's e-BG marks a significant milestone in the digitization of banking services, transforming trade finance space.

Unclaimed deposits in Indian banks rose by 28% at ₹42k crore in 2023

- The rate of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks has risen by 28% in this financial year.
- At the end of March 2023, the amount of unclaimed deposits in Indian banks was recorded at ₹42,272 crore, while the previous year, there was ₹32,934 crore.
- If an unclaimed deposit is lying in a bank for 10 or more years, then it is to be forwarded to RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

LIC to digitally transform with Kellton as its HRMS partner

- Kellton, a digital transformation services company, has won a multi-year project from India's largest insurance provider, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Kellton's role is to implement modern HR tech across LIC's 4,000 locations impacting over 150,000 employees and transforming the organization's HR management systems through advanced HR management systems and robust IT support

IndusInd Bank unveiled 'Indus Solitaire Program'

- IndusInd Bank has launched its 'Indus Solitaire Program', a community banking initiative designed for the diamond industry.
- The program will be offered through its flagship branches in Mumbai and Surat.
- The program includes 24x7 locker access, add-on family accounts, zero cross-currency markup fee on foreign exchange, customized diamond industry employee salary accounts etc.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, IITKanpur launched Kotak School of Sustainability

- Kotak School of Sustainability is India's first fully integrated school of sustainability at IIT Kanpur funded by KMBL through its CSR program.
- To address the challenges of global warming, and promote pedigree education, research, and outreach, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and the Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) joined hands to launch Kotak School of Sustainability.

IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards and Mastercard to co-launch Credit card

- IDFC FIRST Bank, LIC Cards, and Mastercard have partnered to launch a co-branded credit card.
- The 'LIC Classic' and 'LIC Select' cards will provide insurance premium-based rewards to over 27 crore policyholders, and Rs. 5 lakh in personal accident insurance.
- The cards will also feature travel benefits and protective covers, including future LIC insurance premiums.

Federal Bank: Outstanding Achievement in Climate Lending and Reporting

- International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank Group has recognised Federal Bank as the top performer of the 2023 Climate Assessment for Financial Institutions (CAFI) Awards for Climate Reporting.
- Federal Bank secured two positions on the global stage i.e. Highest Climate Loan Amount Reported and Most GHG Mitigated category.
- CEO: Shyam Srinivasan.

SBI to sign 70 million euro LoC with KfW for solar projects

- State Bank of India (SBI) will sign 70 million euro (about Rs 630 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with German Development Bank KfW for promoting solar project in the country.
- The agreement will be signed on December 14 at the bank's IFSC Gift City Branch in Ahmedabad.
- SBI Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

Presence of Indian banks via subsidiaries increased to 417 in FY23

- Indian banks increased their overseas presence to 417 in 2022-23, according to a Reserve Bank of India survey.
- Employee strength also rose by 0.5% and 6.2% for foreign branches and subsidiaries, respectively.
- However, the number of branches and employees of foreign banks in India contracted to 774.
- Branches of Indian banks in the UAE generated highest fee income.

RBI authorises Bandhan Bank to disburse pensions to railway employee

- Bandhan Bank has received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to distribute pensions through e-PPOs for the railway ministry.
- This permission enables the bank to provide pensions to ex-Ministry of Railways employees and access about 50,000 Indian Railways retirees annually across various offices.
- The Indian Railways is the biggest employer in the country.

Bank of India launched 'Nari Shakti Savings Account'

- The 'Nari Shakti Savings Account' is conceptualised as a financial savings tool to support working women with an independent source of income, enabling them to become self-reliant.
- The savings account offers personal accident insurance cover as high as ₹100 lakh, discounted health insurance and wellness products, rebates on locker facilities for gold etc.

RBI cancelled licence of U.P.'s Urban Co-op Bank Ltd.

- The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence of "Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh."

- The bank had no adequate capital and earning prospects as well as failed to comply with the provisions of the Banking Act.
- Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. Sitapur, UP is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes acceptance of deposits, repayment of deposits etc.

Federal Bank Named "Bank of the Year" by The Banker, Financial Times

- Federal Bank won "Bank of the Year (India)" from The Banker, Financial Times highlighting its commitment to customer-centric innovation.
- The institution's exemplary Digital Personal Loan, initiating fully online loan applications & fulfillment, helped earn this accolade.
- Federal Bank introduced 'Bank on the Go' - a mobile vehicle that delivers banking services to remote areas.

SBI to acquire 20 per cent stake in SBI Pension Funds for ₹230 crore

- The Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB) of State Bank of India (SBI) has accorded final approval to the Bank for acquiring 20 per cent stake held by SBICAPS (SBI Capital Markets Ltd) in SBIPFPL (SBI Pension Funds Private Ltd).
- The acquisition, which will be completed by December 15, 2023, is for a cash consideration of ₹229.52 crore.
- SBICAPS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI.

RBI cancels licence of Kolhapur-based bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), cancelled the licence of Kolhapur-based Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Ichalkaranji and asked the bank not to carry on any banking business, with effect from the close of business on December 4, 2023.
- It does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

RBI inked pact with Bank of England on bond clearing settlement

- Reserve Bank of India signed an agreement with Bank of England on exchange of information for settlement of bond trades through Clearing Corporation of India Ltd.
- BoE will assess CCIL to clear and settle bonds and overnight indexed swap trades done by England-based banks and investors.
- CCIL is RBI-supervised central counterparty which hosts the trading platform for Indian government bonds.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners Water.org to offer sanitation loan

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced a partnership with Water.org, a global non-profit organisation that helps people get access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing, such as small loans.
- Water.org will provide technical assistance, market assessment, development of Information, Education and Communication material, monitoring and evaluation support.

Books and Authors Current Affairs

Ex RBI governor Raghuram Rajan's book 'Breaking the Mould' released

- Penguin Random House India has announced the release of Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba's new book, 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future.'
- The book explores the future of India's economic development, posing critical questions about the nation's progress.
- Rajan has previously published notable titles such as 'Fault Lines' and 'The Third Pillar.'

Twinkle Khanna's 'Welcome to Paradise' tops 2023 fiction book sales

- It ranked as the best-selling fiction of 2023 according to Nielson BookScan and Crossword Bookstore.
- The book is a collection of stories centered around women grappling with significant life changes.
- 'Welcome to Paradise' became the fastest-moving title on Juggernaut's list.
- Themes include marriage, parenthood, loneliness, and love, infused with Khanna's trademark humor.

Former President Ram Nath Kovind launches book Naye Bharat ka Samveda

- Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind launched a book "Naye Bharat ka Samveda" in New Delhi on Thursday (7th December 2023).
- The book is a compilation of speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Indian Constitution.
- He served as the 14th president of India from 2017 to 2022.
- He is the first person from Uttar Pradesh to serve as President of India.

Book dissects 'fake IPL' scam

- A new book dissects the infamous fake IPL scam, detailing how a group of small-time conmen managed to dupe seasoned Russian gamblers by staging this fake version of the popular Indian cricket league.
- "Indian Punter League: The True Story of the Fake IPL", authored by Abhishek Bhatt.
- Published by Westland Books, "Indian Punter League" is slated to be turned into a web series.

Business and Economy Current Affairs

India surged to become the second largest Global Steel Producer.

- Domestic steel production reaches around 90 million tonnes, with consumption at 87 million tonnes, reflecting a remarkable 14% growth compared to the previous year.
- Domestic crude steel production surpasses 94 million tonnes, witnessing a growth of over 14% in the same period.
- The Production Linked Incentive Scheme contributes to increased investments in the steel sector.

SEBI unveiled norms for Zero Coupon Instruments by NPOs

- SEBI released a roadmap for not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) to issue 'Zero Coupon Zero Principle' instruments, which will be listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE).
- These instruments will be issued only in dematerialized form and are non-transferable.
- The minimum issue size is set at Rs 50 lakh, minimum application size of Rs 10,000 is proposed to be raised.

Monthly Revision December: Business & Economy-I

- Draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorised Persons' released by RBI
- Fresh NRI deposits doubled to \$6 billion
- IRDAI to launch "Bima Vistaar" insurance for life, health & property
- Ukraine received \$1.34 Billion under World Bank project
- EPFO added 15.29 lakh net members during October 2023
- Share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to 15% in FY23: Govt

Monthly Revision December: Business & Economy-II

- Razorpay, Cashfree secured RBI nod for payment aggregator business
- SBI touched Rs 5-trillion-mark in market capitalisation for first time
- Reliance General Insurance introduces 'Reliance Health Global'
- UPI transactions grew from ₹ 1 lakh cr to ₹ 139 lakh cr in 6 years
- Gross Direct Tax collections for FY 23-24 registered growth of 17.01%
- Net Direct tax collection surges 23.4% to 10.6 Lk.Cr.

Vedanta announced full ownership of Meenakshi Energy.

- Vedanta, led by Anil Agarwal, completes the acquisition of Meenakshi Energy, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- The National Company Law Tribunal approved the acquisition for Rs 1,440 crore.
- Meenakshi Energy issues 10,00,000 fully paid-up equity shares, solidifying the ownership transition on December 27.

Sebi gave nod to appoint Pramod Agrawal as BSE Chairman

- Pramod Agrawal has been approved by SEBI to chair Bombay Stock Exchange from January 17, 2024, succeeding S S Mundra, whose term will conclude on January 16.
- BSE is an Indian stock exchange which is located on Dalal Street in Mumbai.

- Established in 1875 by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand, it is the oldest stock exchange in Asia and tenth largest in the world.

Draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorised Persons' released by RBI

- The RBI has unveiled a draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorised Persons (APs)' under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- The draft norms aim to streamline the authorizing process for money changers and explore alternate forex service models.
- This is part of the RBI's effort to simplify the AP licensing framework to match India's swiftly expanding economy.

Fresh NRI deposits doubled to \$6 billion

- FCNR deposits attracted \$2 billion in inflow from NRIs during April-October 2023, compared to an outflow of \$841 mn last year.
- The surge is attributed to higher interest rates, with Indian banks offering over 5% returns compared to foreign banks.
- Overall, fresh NRI deposits reached \$6 billion during April-October 2023, doubling from \$3 billion in the corresponding period the previous year.

IRDAI to launch "Bima Vistaar" insurance for life, health & property

- India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority plans to launch Bima Vistaar, an all-encompassing insurance product for life, health, and property, in the first quarter of FY25.
- The launch is part of the "Insurance Trinity," aimed at achieving insurance for all by 2047 and includes a digital platform, "Bima Sugam", and a women-led distribution force, "Bima Vahak".

Ukraine received \$1.34 Billion under World Bank project.

- The financing consists of World Bank loan, along with grants from Norway, the US, and Switzerland.
- Funds help compensate for non-security, defence-related expenditures including social payments & emergency service expenses.
- The Finance Minister highlights the role of aid in maintaining Ukraine's financial stability during the conflict.

EPFO added 15.29 lakh net members during October 2023

- EPFO's provisional data for Oct 2023 indicates an addition of 15.29 lakh net members, marking an 18.22% YoY increase.
- Among the new members, 58.60% are in the 18-25 age group, reflecting the majority are first-time job seekers.
- It also noted that about 11.10 lakh members rejoined EPFO after job switches, indicating a preference for continuity in social security protection.

Share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to 15% in FY23: Govt

- The contribution of agriculture to India's GDP has shrunk from 35% in 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23, due to fast-paced growth in the industrial and service sectors.
- Despite the decrease, the agriculture sector has maintained an average annual growth of 4% over the past five years.
- The government is actively implementing various programs, reforms, and policies to boost agricultural productivity.

Razorpay, Cashfree secured RBI nod for payment aggregator business

- Digital payment startups Razorpay and Cashfree have received the final approval from the RBI to operate as payment aggregators after nearly a year-long embargo, letting them to add new merchants and accelerate growth.
- UPI payments giant Google Pay, expense management platform Enkash, payment gateway company Paymentz and neo banking startup Open Financial have also received the regulatory nod.

SBI touched Rs 5-trillion-mark in market capitalisation for first time

- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) touched the Rs 5-trillion-mark in market capitalisation for the first time.
- The shares of the bank has hit a record high of Rs 574.65 and 574.7 per share, up around 3 % on the BSE and NSE, respectively.
- SBI currently stands at the 7th position in the overall market cap ranking of companies.
- SBI chairman: Dinesh Khara.

Reliance General Insurance introduces 'Reliance Health Global'

- Reliance General Insurance Company introduced "Reliance Health Global", a healthcare policy enhancing access to global healthcare for Indians.
- The policy offers unique features such as coverage for international treatments for conditions like cancer, unlimited domestic insurance, and support for travel and accommodation during treatments.

UPI transactions grew from ₹ 1 lakh cr to ₹ 139 lakh cr in 6 years

- UPI transactions grew from ₹ 1 lakh crore in FY 2017-18 to ₹ 139 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 in value, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 168%.
- UPI has achieved 8,572 crore transactions during current financial year.
- UPI has been the major driving force in the overall growth of digital payment transactions in the country accounting for 62% of digital payment transactions in FY 2022-23.

Gross Direct Tax collections for FY 23-24 registered growth of 17.01%

- Net Direct Tax collections are at Rs. 13,70,388 crore, compared to Rs. 11,35,754 crore in the corresponding period of the FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 20.66%.
- Advance Tax collections for the FY 2023-24 stands at Rs. 6,25,249 crore which shows a growth of 19.94%.

- Gross tax collection includes Corporation Tax at Rs. 7,90,049 crore and Personal Income Tax at Rs. 8,02,902 crore.

Trade deficit narrowed to nearly \$21 billion in November, 2023

- India's trade deficit for November decreased to \$20.6 billion as both goods exports and imports fell, affected by reduced product categories and commodities like oil and coal.
- A rise in services exports led to a trade surplus, contributing to the narrowed trade deficit, but overall sluggish global demand continued to impact exports.
- The fall in imports was driven by oil and coal.

Net Direct tax collection surges 23.4% to 10.6 lakh crore rupees

- The government's net direct tax collection for April to November 2023, stood at 58.34% of Budget Estimates at 10.64 lakh crore rupees.
- MoF said that the net tax collection for April-November stood at 10.64 lakh crore rupees, which is 23.4 percent higher than the corresponding period of last year.
- In the current fiscal, 18.23 lakh crore rupees is expected to be collected in direct taxes.

Retail inflation rises to 5.55% in November, 2023

- Consumer prices rose at a three-month high pace of 5.55% in November from 4.87% in October, with food price inflation surging to 8.7% from 6.6%.
- It has been driven by a surge in the inflation rate for vegetables, pulses, fruits, and sugar.
- Food prices paid by urban consumers rose at a sharper pace of 9.3% while they were up 8.4% for their rural counterparts.

RBI raised UPI limit for healthcare and education to Rs 5 Lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India has increased the transaction limit for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh per transaction.
- Further no authentication will be required for transactions of Rs 1 lakh for recurring payments of mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions and credit card repayments.

RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in latest MPC meet

- RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, chaired by governor Shaktikanta Das, has retained the policy repo rate at 6.5% for the fifth consecutive time, with declining inflation being the key reason.
- The forecast for real GDP growth for 2023-24 is set at 7%: Q3 at 6.5% and Q4 at 6%.
- Predictions for 2024-25's first three quarters are 6.7%, 6.5%, and 6.4% respectively.

LIC fourth largest insurer in the world based on reserves: S&P Global

- Life Insurance Corporation of India ranked fourth globally in terms of life and accident & health reserves, with \$503.7 billion, as per S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- The top three insurers are Germany's Allianz SE (\$750.20 billion), China Life Insurance Company (\$616.90 billion), and Japan's Nippon Life Insurance Company (\$536.80 billion).

India's Stock Market achieved \$4 Trillion market capitalization

- The total market capitalization of all BSE-listed stocks in India reached the \$4 trillion mark.

- A drop in crude oil prices boosted investor confidence leading to a positive economic outlook in India.
- Among the top five global markets, the Indian stock market is ranked fifth in terms of market value, following the United States, China, Japan, and Hong Kong.

UPI transaction value hits new high at ₹17.4 lakh crore in November

- A new record was set on UPI platform with transactions totaling ₹17.40 lakh crore, surpassing the previous high of ₹17.16 lakh crore in October.
- The transaction value increased by 1.4% monthly and 46% yearly, according to NPCI data.
- The rise in value and number of transactions is attributable to increased consumer spending during the festival season, particularly in e-commerce, and travel.

GDP surged 7.6% in Quarter 2, went past RBI forecast: NSO report

- India's Gross Domestic Product grew at a higher-than-expected 7.6% in the July to September 2023 quarter, as per initial estimates from the National Statistical Office.
- It occurred despite a tangible growth downturn in the farm and services sectors as well as consumer spending,
- The Reserve Bank of India and the government had earlier expected GDP to grow 6.5% this year.

Foxconn's \$1.5 billion infusion sparks tech boom in India

- Foxconn, the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer, unveiled its latest game-changing move in India.
- A staggering \$1.5 billion investment is set to reshape India's technological future.
- This massive financial injection is part of Foxconn's aggressive expansion plan, positioning India as a key player in its global manufacturing network.



Defence Current Affairs

7th 250 Men Ferrycraft, 'Manjula' (Yard 786) delivered to Indian Navy

- Seven 250 Men Ferry Crafts have been commissioned under India's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.
- Of these, the last boat, "Manjula" (Yard 786), was handed over to the Indian Navy on December 29, 2023.
- The Ferry crafts are developed by Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata.
- It will provide efficient transportation of personnel and supplies between Indian Naval Ports and anchored vessels.

New facility at HAL's Aero Engine Research & Development center opened

- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new advanced design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru.
- The high-tech facility will house special machinery and setups for testing various engines including the strategic Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE).

Indian Navy unveiled new design of Admirals' Epaulettes

- The Indian Navy unveiled new Admirals' Epaulettes design inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Rajmudra.
- It symbolizes India's maritime heritage, PM Modi's vision, and strengthens Indian identity.
- Notable elements include the Octagon indicating all-around vision, Sword depicting Naval power, and Telescope emphasizing foresight.

Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78) inducted

- Indian Navy inducted LSAM 10, the fourth of eight Missile Cum Ammunition Barges.
- It was built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd.
- It was inducted at Naval Dockyards, Mumbai.
- The barges aim to boost the Navy's operational commitments by aiding in the transportation and shift of ammunition to ships at jetties and outer harbors.

Paramilitary Forces embrace 'Sandes App' for secure official Commute.

- Para-military forces shift to 'Sandes App' for official communication, document sharing, and prioritizing data security.
- Developed by NIC, 'Sandes' is an open-source messaging platform, that ensures end-to-end encryption and privacy.
- Personnel were advised to transition from WhatsApp, ensuring secure communication within paramilitary organizations.

Conclusion of 8th Indian Ocean naval symposium in Bangkok.

- The 8th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs ended in Bangkok, attended by 27 member or observer country senior delegates.
- Thailand took over as the IONS Chair, and the Work Plan for the next two years was finalized.
- India designed the selected IONS Flag and will co-chair the Working Groups on Maritime Security and HADR.

Indian Navy commissioned stealth guided missile destroyer "INS Imphal"

- Imphal is the first warship to have been named after a city from the North East, paying a tribute to Manipur's sacrifices in India's freedom struggle.
- INS Imphal is the third of four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.
- It has been indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai.
- It has been developed under Project 15B.

Lt Gen JP Mathew initiated JSW-NDA Car Rally at National War Memorial

- On Dec 24, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Lt Gen JP Mathew flagged off the Delhi to Gwalior leg of the JSW-NDA Car Rally celebrating 75 years of the National Defence Academy.
- A tribute to Operation 'Badli', the rally retraces a historic route.
- The rally, navigating through key armed forces stations, will culminate at the National Defence Academy in Pune, after covering 1800 km in 6 days.

Indian Navy deployed missile destroyer in Gulf of Aden.

- Indian Navy has stationed a missile destroyer in the Gulf of Aden following a piracy incident involving the Malta-flagged vessel, MV Ruen.
- MV Ruen was reportedly boarded by six unknown personnel, leading to the deployment of the Indian Navy's Maritime Patrol Aircraft and INS Kochi for assistance.
- The prompt Indian Navy response resulted in the release of an injured crew member by pirates.

Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders to make Offshore Patrol Vessels for ICG

- Ministry of Defence has signed Rs 1,614.89 crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Ltd for procurement of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard.
- The acquisition of these major ICG platforms is aimed to boost the ICG's capability and reinforces the increased focus of the Government towards Maritime Security.

IAF, United Services Institution conducted Arjan Singh Annual Lecture

- The Indian Air Force and USI jointly held the inaugural Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Annual Lecture, honoring his achievements.
- The lecture, delivered by Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, celebrated Arjan Singh's leadership and service.
- It is an annual event serving to inspire commitment, vision, and leadership, as embodied by Marshal Singh, within IAF personnel and Indian citizens.

INS Shivaji received 'Vir Chakra' of late Vice Adm. Benoy Chowdhury

- INS Shivaji received the 'Vir Chakra' awarded to the late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury.
- Vice Admiral Chowdhury's valor was demonstrated in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- He orchestrated innovative repairs to INS Vikrant's boilers while at sea, showcasing exceptional technical expertise and leadership.
- His pivotal contributions during the war led to his receipt of the 'Vir Chakra'.

IAF testfired 'SAMAR' air defence missiles at Exercise Astrashakti

- The Indian Air Force successfully tested the SAMAR air defence missile system in Exercise AstraShakti-2023.
- SAMAR, developed from old Russian air-to-air missiles, can engage aerial threats at speeds of 2 to 2.5 Mach.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Base Repair Depot (BRD) developed this missile.
- It is the refurbished version of Russian-supplied Vympel R-73E infrared guided air-to-air missiles.

Akash missile made record by hitting four targets at once at 25km

- The Akash, with a range of up to 25 km, is a short-range surface to air missile primarily used for protecting vulnerable areas and points from air attacks.
- India became first country to demonstrate the capability of engagement of 4 aerial targets simultaneously at 25Km ranges by command guidance using single firing unit.
- This capability was displayed at the 'Astrashakti' military exercise.

Indian Armed Forces officers awarded 'Golden Owl' at DSCSC Sri Lanka

- Three Indian Armed Forces officers, Wing Commander Sumeet Mahajan, Major Rohit and Lieutenant Commander Sunny Sharma undergoing training at Defence Services Command and Staff College in Sri Lanka, received the 'Golden Owl' for exceptional performance.
- The officers ranked first among foreign students in their respective Army, Navy, and Air Force wings.

Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator flight tested by DRDO

- DRDO has conducted a successful flight trial for an indigenous high-speed flying-wing UAV, Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.
- The aircraft prototype, with a complex arrowhead wing platform, is manufactured with lightweight carbon prepreg composite material developed indigenously.
- Its successful development is anticipated to bolster the strength of Indian Armed Forces.

Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Vizag

- Indian Navy has inducted Fast Attack Craft, INS Tarmugli in a commissioning ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- The ship has a unique distinction of having served under the flag of two nations - India and Maldives with three names.
- It was first commissioned in Indian Navy; next, it was handed over to Maldives National Defence Force. Now it has been returned back to Indian Navy.

INS Kadmatt arrived Manila, Philippines for long range op deployment

- The visit is aimed at bolstering maritime cooperation between India and Philippines.
- INS Kadmatt is an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, equipped with state-of-the-art anti submarine weapon suite.
- The ship on its return will take part in the Maritime Partnership Exercise, scheduled in the South China Sea between the Indian Navy and Philippines Navy.

Western Air Command Commanders' Conference – 2023

- A two-day Commanders' Conference of Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force was held on 11 and 12 Dec 23 at New Delhi.
- Chief of Air Staff VR Chaudhari emphasized the need for upskilling to harness emerging technologies, like space, cyber, and electronic warfare.
- He urged for a disruptive training pattern, thereby cultivating discipline within the WAC for a robust operational posture.

Indian Coast Guard held 15th Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meet

- The 15th Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting 2023, hosted by Indian Coast Guard, aims to curate collaborative strategies against maritime piracy through mutual learning and sharing of experiences.
- It brought together 19 international delegates from 15 countries, including key national stakeholders from India.
- The meeting took place at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from December 11 to 15, 2023.

Indian Navy conducted bi-annual exercise 'Prasthan' off Mumbai coast

- 'Prasthan' exercise is conducted bi-annually by the Indian Navy, along with other defence state and civil agencies.
- It was held on the R12A Platform of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), around 83 km away from Mumbai harbour.
- The 'Prasthan' is conducted to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.

Indian Armed Forces reached Hanoi for Joint Military Exercise "VINBAX"

- 4th Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023 to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indian Armed Forces and Vietnamese People's Army will conduct drills for enhancing interoperability, and sharing best practices under the UN Charter provisions for peacekeeping.
- Tactical drills for combat engineering and medical tasks will be performed including construction of roads, helipads, and ammunition shelters.

Indian Army conducted Honour Run – Indian Army Veteran's Half Marathon

- In commemoration of military victory in the Kargil War, Indian Army conducted 'Honour Run – Indian Army Veteran's Half Marathon' in Delhi.

- The event was conducted under the theme, 'Honour Run' and was aimed at strengthening the bond between the Indian Army, Veterans and the masses, especially the Youth.
- The event was flagged off by General Manoj Pande at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

INS Sumedha made maiden entry at Port Lamu, Kenya

- Indian Naval Ship Sumedha made its maiden call at Port Lamu, Kenya as part of a long-range deployment to Africa, marking the first Indian Naval visit to this newly developed Kenyan port.
- INS Sumedha is Saryu-class patrol ship of Indian Navy.
- The visit aligns with Indian Navy's mission of forging 'bridges of friendship', and PM's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Italy won Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

- The 12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded with Team Italy winning the Admiral's Cup.
- Team India was the runner-up, and teams from the UK and Germany secured third place.
- 43 participants skillfully navigated challenging wind and weather conditions in Laser Radials boats.
- The event saw participation from 20 countries and Indian teams.

Indian Army conducted Table-top Exercise for Asean Women Peacekeepers

- The exercise was conducted for the women officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- This exercise aligns with the Centre for UN Peacekeeping's efforts to empower women in peace missions, showcasing India's commitment to global peace and gender equality.
- It provided exposure to peacekeeping challenges and responses, a glimpse of India's culture.

Successful training launch of Short-Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-1'

- Training launch of SRBM 'Agni-1' was carried out successfully from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- Agni-1 is a proven very high precision missile system.
- The Agni I has a range of 700–1,200 km.
- Agni-I is a single stage, solid fuel, road and rail mobile, Short-range ballistic missile (SRBM).
- Designer-Defence Research and Development Organisation
- Manufacturer-Bharat Dynamics Limited

CDS: First session of Combined Leadership Conclave in New Delhi.

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan presided over the first session of Combined Leadership Conclave and interacted with the senior leadership of the Armed Forces in New Delhi on December 06, 2023.
- The CDS provided an insight into modern warfare and national security.
- Three-day conclave to focus on geo-strategic issues, national security, jointness & 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

Captain Geetika Koul: 1st woman medical officer at Siachen

- Captain Geetika Koul from the Snow Leopard Brigade became the first woman medical officer of the Indian Army to be deployed at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen after completing the induction training at Siachen Battle School.
- Siachen, located in the northern Himalayas, poses challenges due to its strategic importance, harsh climate, and demanding terrain.

Indian Army Idea & Innovation Competition & Seminar 2023: "Inno Yodha"

- The Indian Army organized the "Inno Yodha 2023" event showcasing technological innovations within the organization.
- A total of 80 in-house innovative solutions, including AI, software applications were shortlisted for further development.
- Collaboration with academia and industry was stressed to develop military-grade solutions, reflecting Army's increasing focus on technology advancement.

Survey Vessel INS Sandhayak delivered to Indian Navy

- SVL Sandhayak, with 80% indigenous components, was delivered to the Indian Navy, exemplifying the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- The ship, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders, is equipped for coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey, with secondary roles of limited defence and emergency hospital services.
- Sandhayak's induction enhances the national maritime prowess in the IOR.

PM Modi to be chief guest at Navy Day function in Sindhudurg

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest for the Navy Day function organised at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.
- Prime Minister will unveil the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort.
- Later he will also witness the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from Tarkarli beach in Sindhudurg.

INS KADMATT AT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (02-05 DEC 23)

- INS Kadmatt, on a Long Range Operational Deployment to the North Pacific Ocean entered Yokosuka, Japan on Dec 02, 2023 for an Operational Turnaround (OTR).
- At Yokosuka, the ship will be celebrating the Navy Day on 04 Dec 2023.
- INS Kadmatt is an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, equipped with state-of-the-art AS weapon suite.

Sqn Leader Manisha Padhi: 1st woman in India from Armed Forces as ADC

- Mizoram Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati has appointed Sqn Leader Manisha Padhi, a 2015 batch Indian Air Force Officer as India's first Woman Aide-De-Camp(ADC) from the Indian Armed Forces.
- Previously, Sqn Leader Manisha Padhi was posted to three postings - Air Force Station, Bidar, Air Force Station, Pune, and lastly at Air Force Station, Bhatinda.

Government Schemes and Policies Current Affairs

Monthly Revision December: Government Policies & Scheme - I

- Mission Karmayogi launched on Good Governance Day
- Union Minister inaugurated tribal orientation programme, Adi Vyakhyan.
- Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 airports
- SHREYAS scheme enhances access to quality education for SC students
- Jute Corporation of India introduced 'Paat-Mitro' app for farmers.
- Parliament passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023

Monthly Revision December: Government Policies & Scheme - II

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita enacted death penalty for lynching.
- "Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme launched by Punjab govt.
- 140 MW solar plants, 2.73 lakh Solar Pumps installed under PM KUSUM
- 58 Airports have been covered under "Krishi Udan Scheme"
- Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme launched by MoEFCC
- DARPG launches scheme and web-portal for NAEg

SHRESHTA: empowering SC students through residential education scheme

- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's scheme supports 2,564 SC students in 142 private schools for the academic year 2023-24.
- Dual implementation modes include selection via Entrance Test and support for NGO/VO-operated schools/hostels.
- Comprehensive monitoring, real-time MIS, field visits, and financial data highlight the scheme's commitment to ensuring educational access and quality.

PM Vishwakarma yojna awareness program empowered artisans in Sonipat

- Organized by MSME-Development Office, Karnal.
- Chief guest: Shri Mohanlal Badoli, MLA, Rai Assembly Constituency.
- Scheme pillars: Sammaan, Samarthya, and Samriddhi.
- Dr. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy, Additional Development Commissioner, highlighted the scheme's benefits.
- 10 stalls by CSC Centre, and 300 artisans participated.
- Women's participation rate in the scheme is 55%.

SAMARTH-curated training programs launched on iGOT Karmayogi platform.

- Six SAMARTH-curated training programs for State Government officials have been launched on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.
- The programs aim to enhance the skills and competencies of government officials to better meet evolving governance needs.
- Currently, the comprehensive online learning platform iGOT Karmayogi hosts over 28 lakh registered learners from across government verticals.

Extended version of Mission Karmayogi launched on Good Governance Day

- Celebrating Good Governance Day, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Extended Version of Mission Karmayogi, introducing new features on the iGOT Karmayogi platform—My iGOT, Blended Programs, and Curated Programs.
- It included the launch of VIKAS (Variable & Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support), a learning program for capacity building, dedicated to enhance civil servants' competency

Health Minister launched 'MedTech Mitra' to advance health Solution.

- The platform aims to assist young innovators in advancing their research and navigating regulatory approval.
- Part of a broader drive to holistically transform India's healthcare sector by 2047.
- 'MedTech Mitra' will facilitate start-ups, ensuring ease in innovation, research, and service provision towards building an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur initiated 'MY Bharat' campaign.

- Minister highlights India's leap in development across sectors such as infrastructure, economy, digitalization.
- Notes India's rise as a startup ecosystem, and transition from mobile importation to exportation.
- Campaign calls on youth to contribute towards India's evolution into a developed country by 2047.

Union Minister inaugurated tribal orientation programme, Adi Vyakhyan.

- Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, inaugurates a two-day tribal orientation programme, Adi Vyakhyan, in New Delhi.
- The event is organized by the National Tribal Research Institute aiming for understanding tribal traditions and challenges.
- Adi Vyakhyan aims to provide insights into statistical frameworks and Constitutional safeguards shaping tribal governance and land rights.

India plans to operationalize Maitri-II research station in Antarctica

- Government plans to establish a new research station, Maitri-II, in East Antarctica .
- The project aims to adhere to Antarctica's environmental protocols while advancing India's scientific research capabilities in the polar region.
- The phased launch includes design, tendering, transportation, and construction, with the finished station expected to be operational by January 2029.

Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 indian airports

- The Indian Government is steadily upgrading security equipment, increasing manpower, and using advanced technologies.
- Digi Yatra, an initiative powered by Facial Recognition Technology, is implemented at 13 airports.
- This tech-driven advancement will be brought to additional airports in a phased manner, according to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

National Clean Air Programme allocated funds to 131 Cities.

- To combat air pollution, the Government, through the Commission for Air Quality Management, has defined extensive pollution abatement policies for NCR cities.
- NCAP launched in 2019, aims for a 20%-30% reduction in particulate matter by 2024.
- An amount of approximately Rs. 9650 Cr is allocated with specific city clean air action plans prepared and rolled out for improved air quality.

SHREYAS scheme enhances access to quality education for SC students

- It is an umbrella scheme comprising 4 sub-schemes aimed at providing education opportunities and support to SCs.
- It includes financial aid for top-class education, free coaching for SCs/OBCs, a fellowship for SC students, and an overseas scheme.
- Several slots are dedicated under these schemes with eligibility determined by income and academic performance.

Jute Corporation of India introduced 'Paat-Mitro' app for farmers.

- The Jute Corporation of India has unveiled the 'Paat-Mitro' app aimed at aiding jute cultivation and income generation.
- Launched by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, the application offers vital knowledge on jute farming.
- In addition to jute gradation parameters, the app provides information on farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts, and procurement policies.

Smriti Irani launched National Anganwadi-cum-Crèches program.

- Smriti Irani, kicks off the National Programme on Anganwadi-cum-Crèches in New Delhi.
- The government plans to set up 17,000 crèches nationwide, primarily targeting women construction workers and women farm labourers.
- The initiative offers economic opportunities for women-run self-help groups and cooperatives in providing childcare services, like child safety, nutrition, and health standards.

Parliament passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023

- Anurag Thakur, announced the Parliament's approval of the 2023 Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill.
- The bill plans to simplify the online process for periodical registration, facilitating press procedures.
- Providing for newspaper circulation and verification, the legislation requires Central Government consent for the local publication of foreign periodicals.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita enacted death penalty for lynching.

- Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita 2023 implements death penalty for mob lynching, replacing the Indian Penal Code 1860.

- The term 'Sedition' has been removed, exchanging it for 'treason' with clearer definitions aimed at preserving freedom of expression.
- The updated law encompasses 358 sections, including 21 new offences, stricter penalties, and provisions for community service punishments.

DigiELV, vehicle service life certificate submission platform launched

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched DigiELV, a platform for vehicle service life certificate submission, aiming to enhance the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy.
- Under DigiELV, individuals can sell their end-of-life vehicle deposit certificates.
- Effective from April 2022, the scrappage policy mandates fitness checks for personal and commercial vehicles after 20 and 15 years respectively.

India's Mines Minister launched National Geoscience Data Repository

- Minister Pralhad Joshi unveiled the NGDR portal, aiming to democratise access to the country's geospatial data.
- The platform provides detailed geospatial data of 20 lakh sq km, facilitating better exploration projects.
- The NGDR project has been spearheaded by GSI and BISAG-N, supporting India's goal of self-reliance in minerals.

"Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar" scheme launched by Punjab govt.

- The scheme is aimed to deliver citizen-centric services at people's doorstep.
- Under this scheme, people will get 43 services, including certificates of birth, marriage, death, income, residence, caste, rural area, border area, backward area, pension, payment of electricity bills and land demarcation.
- To avail these services, people will have to dial 1076 and their needs will be scheduled.

140 MW solar plants, 2.73 lakh Solar Pumps installed under PM KUSUM

- Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister Shri R. K. Singh has said that 140 MW solar power plants and 2.73 lakh Stand-alone Solar Pumps have been installed under PM-KUSUM scheme.
- PM-KUSUM as it is a demand driven scheme.
- The capacities are allocated based on demand received from the States/UTs.

58 Airports have been covered under "Krishi Udan Scheme"

- Krishi Udan Scheme was launched in August 2020 to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products.
- The scheme currently covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/areas.
- The scheme aims to ensure cost-effective, time-bound air transportation for all Agri-produce originating especially from Northeast, hilly and tribal areas.

Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme launched by MoEFCC

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for its overall management.

DARPG launches scheme and web-portal for NAeG

- Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances DARPG has launched the scheme and web-portal for National Awards for e-Governance NAeG.
- The objective of the Scheme is to recognize and promote excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- This year 16 Awards are being conferred under the NAeG-2024.

'Suchitwa Theeram' Project launched by Kozhikode dist. administration

- The 'Suchitwa Sagaram Sundara Theeram' project, an initiative for plastic-free coasts, will kick-start in three stages at Kollam Vadi Beach.
- 600 groups comprising 15,000 social workers will clear trash along the 590 km coastline, making it a no-plastic zone.
- Kerala Govt. fisheries minister Saji Cherian shared plans for extending the cleanup to 20 fishing harbours and deep sea areas.

Ministry of Culture launched Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Project

- The Government of India has decided to map and document all villages under Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar Programme.
- This National Mission on Cultural Mapping is conducted in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts under the Ministry of Culture.
- A web portal on MGMD has also been launched.
- The MGMD will make information detailing of life, history, and ethos of Indian villages

PM Modi approves India's first project to tackle urban floods

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
- The 'Integrated Urban Flood Management activities for Chennai Basin Project' represents a proactive measure to address the challenges posed by urban flooding.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Gram Manchitra"

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched Geographic Information System application "Gram Manchitra" to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat.
- Further, Ministry has launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have asset as an output.

Bihar government launched "Mission Daksh" to minimise school dropout

- Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill) aims at offering special Hindi, Mathematics and English classes to weak students of classes 3-8.
- A teacher will teach only 5 students, who cannot read and write Hindi and English fluently and are not good at basic Mathematics.
- Daksh classes were run successfully between 3.30 pm and 4.15 pm in over 60,000-plus schools across the state.



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Days and Events Current Affairs

28th December: 139th Foundation Day of Indian National Congress

- The Indian National Congress celebrated its 139th Foundation Day today, marking its inception on December 28, 1885 - an important event in Indian political history.
- It began as a party that simply wanted to influence British policy in India, then transformed to be at the helm of India's nationalist movement.
- The party played an immense role to unshackle India from the British Colonial Raj.

Good Governance Day commemorated birth anniversary of Ex-PM vajpayee.

- Good Governance Day is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Vajpayee.
- The day, observed annually on December 25, is designed to promote awareness of accountability in governance.
- It underlines the commitment to foster accountability and transparency in the functioning of the Government.

"National Farmers' day celebrated globally 2023.

- National Farmers' Day celebrated globally with 'Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience' as 2023 Theme.
- Celebrated on December 23rd, 'Kisan Diwas' honors Indian farmers and commemorates the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- This day is particularly popular in states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh.

UN declared 2024 as International year of Camelids.

- It recognized the crucial role of camelids like alpacas and dromedaries play in nutrition, food security, and economic growth.
- These creatures are vital to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, providing resources like milk, meat, fibre, and transportation.
- This seeks to amplify the potential of camelids, advocating for further research, investment, and innovation in the sector.

21st Dec: 1st Foundation day of All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa

- Union Ayush Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, celebrated the first foundation day of AIIA Goa by issuing a commemorative postal stamp.
- The minister emphasized that this is a proud milestone giving Ayurveda global recognition.
- The event was jointly organized by the All India Institute of Ayurveda and India Post.
- It took place at the Transport Bhawan in New Delhi.

Judge Advocate General Department celebrated 40th Corps Day

- The legal branch of the Indian Army, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department, marked its 40th Corps Day on 21st Dec 2023.



- JAG department handles military legal matters and provides guidance to the Chief of Army Staff.
- The Judge Advocate General is the legal advisor to the Chief of Army Staff in matters of military, martial (in its fighting service aspect) and international law.

International Human Solidarity Day 2023: 20th December

- International Human Solidarity Day, celebrated on December 20, aims to promote global unity and fight poverty, hunger, and disease.
- Theme for 2023: 'Advocate for Change.'
- The UNGA announced this day on December 22, 2005.
- It promotes a culture of solidarity and raises public awareness about the importance of unity in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Goa Liberation Day: 19th December

- Goa Liberation Day marks the day in 1961 when the Indian Army freed the state from 450 years of Portuguese rule.
- Operation Vijay was launched to invade the three Portuguese territories: Goa, Daman, and Diu.
- It occurred as a 36-hour military operation that began on December 18 and ended on December 19.
- It was the first tri-service operation of the Indian armed forces.

Minorities Rights Day: 18th December

- To protect the rights of the minority communities every year on 18 December Minorities Rights Day is observed in India.
- This day is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities.
- Theme for 2023: 'Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion'
- United Nations on 18 December 1992 adopted the statement on the Individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.

International Migrants Day: 18th December

- Theme for 2023: "Act Today for a Better Tomorrow for All: Improving the Health of migrants to Unleash the Power of Migration."
- The UN Migration Agency defines a migrant as any person who has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence.
- On December 4, 2000, the UN General Assembly declared December 18 as International Migrants Day.

Vijay Diwas: 16th December

- Every 16 December in Bangladesh and India, Vijay Diwas is commemorated to observe the victory of Bangladesh over Pakistan in the 1971 War of Liberation from Pakistan.
- The War's end led to the Pakistan Army's unilateral and unconditional defeat and subsequent division into Bangladesh from eastern Pakistan.
- The 26th March 1971 is celebrated as Bangladeshi Independence Day.

International Day of Neutrality: 12th December

- Observed annually on December 12, the International Day of Neutrality seeks to strengthen peace and security at a global level.
- On December 12, 2017, the International Day of Neutrality was officially proclaimed by United Nations.
- This day sheds light on the importance of countries adopting a neutral stance in international affairs to maintain impartiality and contribute to global security.

Universal Health Coverage Day: 12th December

- As per WHO, Universal health coverage (UHC) means all people can access a full range of quality health services they need without financial issues.
- On 12 December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed a resolution urging countries to implement universal health coverage.
- In 2017, the UNGA proclaimed 12 December as UHC Day.
- Theme for 2023: "Health For All: Time for Action".

United Nations Human Rights Day 2023: 10th December

- Every year on December 10th, Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
- Theme for 2023: "Freedom, Equality and Justice for All."
- The year-long Human Rights 75 initiative seeks to shift the needle of understanding towards greater knowledge of universality of the UDHR and activism associated with it.

11 December - International Mountain Day

- The United Nations headquarters in New York launched the International Year of Mountains on December 11, 2001.
- On December 20, 2002, the UN designated December 11 as International Mountain Day.
- The first International Mountain Day was then observed on December 11, 2003.
- The theme for 2023 is Restoring Mountain Ecosystems.

11 December - UNICEF Day

- Annually observed on December 11, UNICEF Foundation Day stands as a poignant celebration, marking the establishment of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on this date in 1946.
- At its core, UNICEF is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of children worldwide.
- The focus of UNICEF's World Children's Day in 2023 revolves around the theme "For every child, every right."

International Anti-Corruption Day - 9th December

- Theme for 2023: "The UN Convention against Corruption at 20: Uniting the World against Corruption"
- The 2023 International Anti-Corruption Day emphasizes the universal role in combating corruption, marking the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

- The Convention, adopted in 2003, has nearly universal recognition, highlighting the global commitment to good governance.

Intl Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Crime of Genocide: 9th Dec

- Theme for 2023: "A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."
- By UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/323 of September 2015, 9th December became the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.

39th SAARC Charter Day - 8th December, 2023

- The 39th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Charter Day was observed on the 8th of December 2023 to commemorate the signing of the SAARC Charter on the 8th of December in 1985.
- It was signed by the leaders of the Seven South Asian Countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC was joined by Afghanistan as a Member in April, 2007.

Bodhi Day: 8th December, 2023

- Bodhi Day is celebrated to commemorate the day when Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya, Northern India.
- It holds religious and spiritual significance for Buddha followers worldwide.
- The day is observed by practicing kindness, chanting sutras, studying the Dharma, and meditating.

Death Anniversary of CDS Bipin Rawat: 8th December.

- General Bipin Rawat was an Indian military officer who was a four-star general, i.e. Chief of Army Staff.
- He served as the first Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces from January 2020 until his death in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
- A memorial stone was installed for former CDS Bipin Rawat and 13 others who died in helicopter crash in Coonoor.

Hanukkah festival: 7 December – 15 December 2023

- Hanukkah, Judaism's 'Festival of Lights', celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BC.
- The ritual of lighting an additional candle each night on the menorah honors the miracle of a tiny amount of oil lasting eight days.
- The celebration includes lighting a menorah in a place visible from outside, symbolising the spreading of God's light.

Armed Forces Flag Day: 7 December

- Every year, December 7 is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day in India to honour the martyrs, veterans and serving personnel of the defence forces.
- The day has been observed annually since 1949 to remember the services of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and collect funds to ensure their and their family's well-being.

International Civil Aviation Day: 7 December

- International Civil Aviation Day was first observed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on December 7, 1994, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Chicago Convention.
- Later, the UN General Assembly announced December 7 to be International Civil Aviation Day in 1996.
- Theme: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development."

International Cheetah Day 2023: 4 December

- International Cheetah Day, observed annually on December 4, is a global initiative to raise awareness about the conservation of cheetahs, renowned as the fastest land animals on Earth.
- The significance of this date lies in the birthday of Khayam, a cheetah raised by Dr. Laurie Marker, marking the beginning of a journey towards cheetah conservation.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar death anniversary: 6th December

- Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, social reformer and political leader.
- He headed the committee drafting the Constitution of India, served as Law minister in first cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- He was a staunch opponent of the orthodox caste system and worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the Dalits.
- Today is his death anniversary and PM Modi paid tribute to him.

World Soil Day 2023: 5th December

- Theme for 2023: "Soil and water, a source of life"
- World Soil Day is held annually as a means to focus attention on importance of healthy soil.
- In December 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as the 1st official World Soil Day.
- The birthday of late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, one of the main proponents of this initiative falls on this day.

International Volunteer Day 2023: 5th December

- 2023 Theme: "The Power of Collective Action: if everyone did"
- Mandated by the UN General Assembly, the International Volunteer Day is held each year on 5 December.
- It is viewed as a chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values
- The State of the World's Volunteerism Report is a flagship UN publication that strengthens understanding of volunteerism.



World Computer Literacy Day: 2 December

- The World Computer Literacy Day is marked annually on December 2.
- World Computer Literacy Day was started in 2001 by NIIT Limited (National Institute of Information Technology), an Indian multinational skills and talent development corporation.
- The theme for 2023 is believed to be: Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.

BSF: 59th Raising Day in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh

- The BSF, which is the largest border guarding force in the world with a strength of nearly 2.5 lakh personnel, celebrates its Raising Day every year on December 1.
- Mandated to guard the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh border, the BSF is the only force of the nation with a distinctly defined wartime as well as peacetime role.
- Border Security Force came into existence on December 1, 1965.

Nagaland Statehood Day: 1st December

- Nagaland was formally recognised as a separate state on 1st December, 1963, with Kohima being declared as its capital.
- The State of Nagaland Act, 1962, was enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.
- After India became independent in 1947, the Naga territory initially remained a part of Assam.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted people of Nagaland on their Statehood Day.

World AIDS Day 2023: 1st December

- Every year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day.
- People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.
- *'World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit'* is the theme of World AIDS Day this year.
- The first World AIDS Day took place in 1988.
- This year marks the 35th commemoration of this day.



International Current Affairs

Argentina formally rejected BRICS membership

- Argentine President Javier Milei has formally rejected an invitation to join BRICS grouping.
- Milei's stance marks a significant shift from the policy of the previous government.
- Argentina's membership, along with those of Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and UAE, was due to begin on January 1, 2024 but now stands rejected.

Mengxiang, China's deep sea mining vessel to study earth's mantle

- 'Mengxiang,' meaning 'dream' in Chinese, is a state-of-the-art ocean drilling vessel unveiled by China.
- It aims to explore Earth's mantle and vast deep-sea resources.
- The ship is China's first independently developed and constructed drilling vessel has got world's deepest drilling capacity.
- Mengxiang was officially named and launched on December 18, 2023.

US announced final military aid package of \$250 million to Ukraine.

- Secretary of State Antony Blinken mentions the package includes arms and equipment under previously directed drawdowns for Ukraine.
- Biden administration emphasizes that this marks the limit of aid without explicit approval from lawmakers; and seeks over \$60 billion in supplementary aid for Ukraine.
- Since Russia's invasion, the US has provided over \$46 billion in military aid to Ukraine.

Narendra Modi to inaugurate BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi.

- PM Modi accepts the invitation to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Mandir on February 14 in Abu Dhabi.
- PM Modi envisions the temple as a symbol of global unity and spiritual harmony, transcending beliefs and traditions.
- BAPS delegation praises Modi's leadership and achievements, with the UAE and the Middle East.
- PM Modi recalls memories of Pramukh Swami, offers prayers for Maharaj's well-being.

Nakheel beaches receive Blue Flag Global Accreditation

- Nakheel, an esteemed real estate developer, disclosed that eight of its beaches at Jebel Ali, Palm Jumeirah, and Dubai Islands have received the Blue Flag status, signifying sustainability, cleanliness and safety.
- The Blue Flag is an international eco-certification program run by the Foundation of Environmental Education, concentrating on bridging the public with their surrounding environment

Qatar commutes death penalty: relief for 8 Indian Navy veterans

- Court of Appeal in Qatar reduces sentences in Dahra Global 'espionage' case involving 8 Indian Navy veterans.

- India notes the verdict, awaits detailed judgment, and is in close touch with the legal team and family for the next steps.
- 8 retired officers, initially sentenced to death in October, were arrested on charges of espionage on behalf of Israel, working for Dahra Global Technologies.

US launched Operation Prosperity Guardian to secure Red Sea

- Operation Prosperity Guardian is a US-led multinational military operation formed in response to attacks on Red Sea shipping routes, amid the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.
- It aims to counter Houthi threats and end their blockade of Israel, with an emphasis on protecting international maritime commerce.
- The coalition comprises over 20 members, including ten anonymous participants.

PPP nominated first hindu woman for elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- Pakistan People's Party nominates Dr Saveera Parkash, to contest from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections.
- The decision comes following the Pakistan Electoral Commission's mandate of having at least 5% women candidates on general seats.
- Prakash, a member of the PPP women's wing, will run for the PK-25 seat in the February 8 elections.

UK to introduce carbon import levy on certain products by 2027.

- The planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism targets carbon-intensive goods in various sectors.
- Levy will depend on carbon emissions during production and discrepancies in carbon pricing between the origin and the UK.
- Britain has a target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

UNSC Adopts Resolution for Unimpeded Aid Delivery in Gaza Strip.

- The UN Security Council passed a resolution demanding unfettered humanitarian aid delivery across the Gaza Strip.
- The resolution received 13 votes in favor, with the US and Russia abstaining, and none against.
- The resolution called for creating conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict.

WHO officially acknowledges Noma as a Neglected Tropical Disease

- Noma, or cancrum oris, a severe gangrenous disease with a 90% mortality rate, predominantly affecting impoverished children aged 2-6.
- Lack of awareness and outdated data contribute to the disease's neglected status, hindering effective intervention and global response.
- Inclusion on the NTD list emphasizes the need for increased global attention, research, and resources to combat noma.

Abdel Fattah El Sisi won Egyptian Presidential Elections with 89% vote

- Sisi took 89.6 percent of the vote to secure a third term, with turnout at 66.8 percent, according to the election authority.
- Abd el-Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil el-Sisi is an Egyptian politician and retired military officer who has served as the sixth and current president of Egypt since 2014.
- Sisi also served as Egypt's deputy PM, Defense Minister and Director of Military Intelligence.

UNSC extended mission of Sanctions Monitoring Team against Taliban

- United Nations Security Council has extended the mission of the Sanctions Monitoring Team against the Taliban administration for another year.
- The activities of terrorist groups, discrimination against women, and the lack of an inclusive government have prevented the Security Council from reconsidering its sanctions on the Taliban.
- Russia and China did not veto the decision in the Council.

China launched MisrSat-2 satellite into space jointly with Egypt

- China, jointly with Egypt, launched a new MisrSat-2 satellite into space.
- The satellite was tested and developed jointly at the China-funded Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Test Center (AITC) in Cairo.
- The MisrSat-2 satellite was launched on the Long March-2C carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center located in China's Gobi Desert.

World's first Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2" launched by China

- A Chinese company LandSpace Technology became the first in the world to launch satellites with rockets fuelled by methane and liquid oxygen.
- The Zhuque 2 Y-3 blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The rocket was 49.5 metres in length, had a diameter of 3.35m, and had a lift-off mass of 220 tonnes, excluding the payloads.

Myanmar surpassed Afghanistan as world's largest source of opium

- Myanmar has surpassed Afghanistan to become world's largest source of opium in 2023 after a third consecutive year of expanding cultivation fueled by the country's civil war, the United Nations said in a new report.
- After the Taliban imposed a ban on drugs in 2022, opium cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 95%, leading to a global shift in the opium supply to Myanmar.

Donald Tusk elected as new Prime Minister of Poland

- Members of the Polish Parliament backed Donald Tusk to become Poland's Prime Minister after current leader Mateusz Morawiecki lost a confidence vote in the country's Parliament.
- Tusk previously served as the Prime Minister of Poland from 2007 to 2014 and as president of the European Council from 2014 to 2019.
- Tusk was also the president of the European People's Party from 2019 to 2022.

Russia unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines

- Putin inaugurated the vessels, which are named the Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander the Third at Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk in the country's northwestern Archangelsk region.
- He oversaw the raising of navy's flag on the newly built nuclear submarines.
- Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear-tipped Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles.

China starts up world's first fourth-generation nuclear reactor

- China has launched the world's first commercial operations of a fourth-generation gas-cooled nuclear reactor power plant in eastern Shandong province, the Shidao Bay plant.
- Unlike conventional reactors, this plant utilizes small modular reactors (SMRs), which are high-temperature reactors cooled by gas instead of pressurized water.
- SMRs are considered more efficient and cost-effective.

Early Warnings For All

- "Early Warnings for All" is an initiative aimed at providing life-saving early warning systems to protect everyone on Earth from hazardous weather, water, or climate events by the end of 2027.
- The initiative, led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), calls for over \$3 billion investment over five years to strengthen.

COP 28: Santiago Network draft adopted

- At COP28, the draft text for the Santiago Network, a collaborative framework to assist vulnerable developing countries in managing climate-induced loss and damage, has been adopted.
- The Santiago Network was established at COP 25 in Madrid as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).

Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts: 11 of 26 hikers dead, 3 rescued

- Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupted on Sumatra Island, resulting in the tragic death of at least 11 hikers out of a group of 26, with three successfully rescued.
- Mount Merapi, is an active stratovolcano located on the border between the province of Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.

Axolotl: Mexico's Salamander

- The axolotl is a cute salamander with a permanent smile.
- It's also deeply meaningful to Mexico and has been revered since the days of the Aztecs.
- Mexico is desperately trying to save the axolotl as its numbers fall dramatically because of habitat encroachment.
- The axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) is a paedomorphic salamander closely related to the tiger salamander.
- It is native to Mexico.

Indian American global venture capitalist appointed to IDFC board

- President Joe Biden has nominated prominent Indian-American global venture capitalist Deven Parekh as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation, a development finance institution and agency of the US government.
- Parekh, the managing director at software investment firm Insight Partners.
- His nomination will be for a period of three years.

The word "Rizz" chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year 2023

- 'Rizz' is a colloquial noun, defined as 'style, charm, or attractiveness; the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner'.
- Rizz is a term that has boomed on social media and speaks to how the language that enjoys intense popularity and currency within particular social communities, and even in some cases lose their popularity and become passé can bleed into the mainstream.

COP 28: Loss and Damage (L&D) fund

- The fund, based at the World Bank but managed independently, has received commitments worth at least \$450 million. L&D fund was first announced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) in 2022.
- L&D: It refers to the negative consequences arising from the unavoidable risks of climate change, like rising sea levels, prolonged heatwaves, species extinction, crop failures, etc

UAE Commits Record \$30 Billion to at World Climate Action Summit

- United Arab Emirates, the COP28 Presidency declared an unprecedented \$30 billion commitment to ALTERRA, a climate-focused investment vehicle.
- This initiative aims to revolutionize international climate finance, prioritizing equitable access for the Global South.
- ALTERRA now stands as the world's largest private investment vehicle dedicated to climate action.

COP 28: 'Jaywun' Sets Sail as Eco-Friendly Marine Research Marvel

- In the eco-conscious lead-up to COP28, the UAE proudly showcases 'Jaywun,' its eco-friendly marine research vessel launched by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi 'Jaywun,' a symbol of sustainable innovation.
- At COP28 'Jaywun' actively contributes to the 'Ocean World Discovery' project, emphasizing sustainable practices and ecological awareness.

PM to also launch Green Credit Initiative at COP28 climate conference

- Prime Minister Narendra will launch the Green Credit Initiative at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.
- This is an important event jointly hosted by India and the UAE at COP28.
- This collaborative endeavor aligns with the principles of the Green Credit program, introduced by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Monthly Revision November: International Affairs - I

- 'Authentic' is Merriam-Webster's word for 2023
- Christopher Luxon swears in as New Zealand's PM
- Netherlands: Geert Wilders registers victory in elections
- UAE Inaugurates World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant
- Spain's Pedro Sánchez reelected prime minister
- 'Hallucinate' is the Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year for 2023
- First chikungunya vaccine, Ixchiq, approved by US FDA

Monthly Revision November: International Affairs - II

- Film 'Mrs' to premiere at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival
- Putin revokes Russia's ratification of nuclear test ban treaty
- New York city wins first US National Gatka Championship
- Cayman Islands removed from FATF 'grey list'
- New York city wins first US National Gatka Championship
- Cayman Islands removed from FATF 'Grey list'



MoU and Agreements Current Affairs

Rajasthan and MP finalized MoU on modified PKC link project.

- Union Ministry of Jal Shakti concludes an agreement between Rajasthan and MP on the Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link project.
- The project is expected to be signed in January 2024, emphasizing its significance in water resource utilization and economic development.
- The Modified PKC Link Project targets irrigation on 2.8 lakh hectares of land in both states.

ONDC partnered with Google, Meta to reach small businesses

- The Ministry of Commerce-backed e-commerce protocol Open Network for Digital Commerce announced partnerships with Google and Meta, integrating with Google Maps and WhatsApp to expand outreach to small businesses.
- Through Google Maps, users can book tickets for Kochi Metro using the ONDC platform.
- On WhatsApp, small businesses can streamline their onboarding process with the ONDC framework.

Monthly Revision December: Agreements & MoUs-I

- RITES and NEEPCO partner to boost logistical infrastructure.
- NSDC signs MoU with Saudi govt to protect rights of skilled labourers
- GoI, ADB sign 37 bn Japanese Yen loan for Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor
- India & Oman to conclude Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
- NITI Aayog and IFPRI sign Sol for agricultural & rural development
- Reliance Industries joins hand with DBS Bank India

Monthly Revision December: Agreements & MoUs-II

- AIIB, UNDP collaborated for Sustainable Infrastructure Development
- EKI Energy partnered with Indian Oil to promote solar cooking
- India announces \$250 mn line of credit to Kenya in agri sector
- iDEX-DIO signed contract for Gallium Nitride Semiconductors production
- Tata Power, Indian Oil Corp to co-deploy over 500 EV charging points
- Assam Govt & NDDDB signed MoU for dairy development in state

DGFT plans pacts with Global e-commerce platforms.

- DGFT, under the commerce ministry, to sign agreements with global e-comm platforms like Walmart for 'Districts as Export Hubs' Initiative"
- Aim: Provide training to MSMEs in identified districts, covering digital cataloging, imaging, and tax advisory for export promotion.
- Director General of Foreign Trade, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, states that MoUs with global platforms will be finalized soon.

IIT Guwahati collaborated with Assam govt's Arohan Scheme over STEM

- IIT Guwahati collaborates with Assam Govt's Arohan Scheme to promote STEM subjects in higher education.
- Over 3300 students, including a majority of girls, were inspired through mentoring, exposure trips, and competitions.
- Arohan, led by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, focuses on the career progression of government school students in classes 9th to 12th, with 12 batches hosted at IIT Guwahati.

Reliance Jio, IIT Bombay to launch Bharat GPT, to bring OS for TVs

- Reliance Jio has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model designed for India's needs.
- Ambani stated at IIT Bombay TechFest that the company is also considering the launch of an operating system for smart televisions.
- Development of AI-powered products and services in media, commerce, and communication has also been discussed.

ATGL and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonisation

- Adani Total Gas Ltd and Flipkart have signed an MoU to decarbonize Flipkart's supply chain, supporting the reduction of its overall carbon footprint.
- ATGL will aid Flipkart's transition to cleaner fuel options, including natural gas, and assist with integrating electric vehicles into their supply chain.
- EV charging infrastructure to be set up at Flipkart's supply chain locations.

Adani Green Energy, SECI inked pact for supply of 1,799 MW solar power

- Adani Green Energy has signed a power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India to supply 1,799 MW of solar power.
- AGEL has established 2 GW of photovoltaic cell and module manufacturing facilities through its associate company Mundra Solar Energy Ltd.
- With the PPA signing, AGEL now has tied up power purchase agreements of 19.8 GW within their 20.6 GW locked-in portfolio.

RITES and NEEPCO partner to boost logistical infrastructure.

- RITES Ltd has signed a pact with NEEPCO to cooperate on consultancy services aimed at strengthening logistical infrastructure at North East hydropower stations.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government has entrusted NEEPCO with five hydropower projects in the Siang Basin.
- RITES will support NEEPCO as a Project Management Consultant for works related to rail infrastructure facilities.

\$100m project by centre and ADB to revitalize Tripura's tourism.

- Central government and ADB secured a \$100m loan aimed at upgrading urban services and tourism in Tripura.
- The project will strengthen urban water systems, upgrade roads with features for vulnerable populations, and impart key skills to local urban bodies.

- High-profile sites like Chaturdash Temple, Kasba Kalibari, and Neermahal Palace will be upgraded, and a 10-year tourism plan implemented.

JioMart partners with DAY-NRLM to enable SHGs sell products

- Partnership aims to empower Self-Help Group under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission to expand their market presence through JioMart.
- JioMart to provide comprehensive support for account setup, digital navigation, training, and post-launch assistance to SHGs.
- Collaboration seen as a significant step towards enhancing rural live, aligns with the Make in India.

IIM Kashipur and Zenith Academy launched rail management programme.

- IIM Kashipur, with Zenith Railway Academy, introduces an 11-month Executive Post Graduate Certificate in Rail Management programme.
- The programme seeks to fulfill the increasing demand for skilled professionals in rapidly expanding railway networks.
- Designed to be executive-friendly, the programme, comprising 150+ learning hours, and will feature a 3-day campus immersion at IIM Kashipur.

South Western Railway and JSW partner for iron ore transportation

- South Western Railway and JSW have entered into an agreement for operating wagons with a 'side discharge' technique for iron ore unloading.
- Wagons will transport iron ore from mines at Mineral Enterprises Ltd. Siding, Sasalu and Swamihalli to the JSW steel plant in Tornagallu.
- JSW is investing Rs. 29 cr per rake with expected first operation in April 2024.

DB Schenker India and CONCOR ink MoU for EXIM, domestic business.

- Logistics firm DB Schenker India signs MoU with Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) aiming to focus on sustainability.
- The collaboration will contribute to sustainable supply chain practices and domestic multimodal solutions in the logistics industry.
- This partnership will also help improve India's position in 'ease of doing business', a prime focus of the Government.

NSDC signs MoU with Saudi govt to protect rights of skilled labourers

- The skilled labourers including AC mechanics, and car painters, can register themselves on NSDC which will be free of cost.
- National Skill Development Corporation is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.

Gol, ADB sign 37 bn Japanese Yen loan for Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor

- The Indian Government and ADB signed a Japanese Yen 37 billion (\$250 million) loan agreement for the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor.
- The 82km corridor, part of the NCR Regional Plan 2021, aims to reduce travel time drastically and boost regional economic and employment opportunities.
- The RRTS will contribute to CO2 emission reduction, supporting climate change mitigation efforts.

India & Oman to conclude Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

- PM Modi and Oman's Sultan Haitham adopted a vision for bilateral cooperation expansion and fast-tracked a comprehensive partnership agreement.
- They discussed Israel-Hamas conflict, terrorism, and a two-state solution for Palestine.
- A \$300m Oman-India joint fund was announced to boost investment into India's growing sectors.

NITI Aayog and IFPRI sign Sol for agricultural & rural development

- International Food Policy Research Institute will provide policy analytics and support in transforming food systems, along with a broad exchange of knowledge from its global partnerships.
- The collaboration is expected to foster insights into the role of agriculture in India's economic development, highlighting its importance in the nation's transformation over the next 25 years.

Indian Navy, IIT Kanpur signed MoU for innovation and research

- Indian Navy & IIT Kanpur have signed a MoU for joint R&D, technology development & innovative solutions.
- They aim to enhance field solutions, training, capacity building & academic exchange in Engineering related to defence technologies.
- The collaboration fosters a symbiotic relationship between academia & armed forces, promoting innovation & knowledge exchange.

Reliance Industries joins hand with DBS Bank India

- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- The initiative aims to foster the development of an ecosystem where vendor partners can aggregate agricultural residue as raw material for Reliance's CBG production plants throughout India.

RITES signed pact with CFM Mozambique for 10 diesel locomotive supply

- State-owned RITES Ltd announced it has signed a pact with CFM Mozambique for the supply of diesel locomotives at a total cost of USD 37,680,080 (Rs 314.1 crore).
- The pact has been signed for the supply of ten diesel locomotives.
- Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique is a state-owned company of Mozambique.
- The pact is aimed to foster the India-Mozambique bilateral relationship.

Tata Power, Indian Oil Corp to co-deploy over 500 EV charging points

- Tata Power's subsidiary Tata Power EV Charging Solutions has inked an agreement with India Oil Corporation Ltd. to install more than 500 fast and ultra-fast electric vehicle (EV) charging points across India.
- Tata Power will install EV charging points across multiple IOCL retail outlets.
- These EV charging points will be installed in major cities and across major highways and expressways.

AIIB, UNDP collaborated for Sustainable Infrastructure Development

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and UNDP have signed a MoU to enhance sustainable infrastructure development and tackle developmental challenges in Asia.
- Their joint efforts will push national climate goals and the 2030 Agenda through sustainable development financing.
- Both entities will co-invest, leverage funding, and collaborate on impact measurement.

MoD, Telecommunication Consultant India Ltd inks MoU for digital infra

- Ministry of Defence inked contract worth Rs 588.68 Cr with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited for "Digital Coast Guard project."
- A pivotal Initiative for the Indian Coast Guard, the DCG Project will unfold a comprehensive narrative of technological progression, encompassing the construction of an advanced Data Centre, and the establishment of a robust Disaster Recovery Data Centre.

EKI Energy partnered with Indian Oil to promote solar cooking

- EKI Energy Services and Indian Oil Corporation collaborated to promote 'Surya Nutan', a sustainable indoor solar cooking system.
- IndianOil will share Surya Nutan's technology with EKI Energy for production enhancement.
- EKI will manage Surya Nutan's end-to-end, including manufacturing, marketing, installation, and after-sales services, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Union Bank of India, Accenture joined hands for technical development

- Union Bank of India collaborated with Accenture to develop a scalable data lake platform to enhance efficiency and customer services using predictive analytics and AI.
- This platform will enable the bank to make data-driven decisions, leading to operational agility and value creation.
- Accenture will help build new AI and machine learning models for better business forecasting.

Meta, IBM launched 'AI Alliance' to promote open-source AI development

- Meta and IBM have launched the AI Alliance, advocating for an open-science approach to AI that ensures technology access for all.
- The AI Alliance contends that AI's future relies on open idea exchange and open-source tech.
- They intend to work with regulators to create favorable legislation; IBM has a history of backing open-source projects.

Art of Living joined hands with Maharashtra govt. for natural farming

- The *Art of Living Social Projects* and the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Maharashtra signed an MOU to promote traditional, chemical-free farming.
- It aims to enhance farmer profitability and safeguard soil integrity.
- The project already trained over 2.2 million farmers and continues to offer support via the 'Kisan Manch' platform.

USD 175 million loan agreement signed with ADB for MP road improvement

- The GoI and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 175 million dollar loan agreement to improve connectivity and resilience of roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- The project will upgrade about 500 km of state highways and major district roads to a standard two-lane feature.
- These roads will incorporate climate- and disaster-resilient design and innovative road safety elements.

India announces \$250 mn line of credit to Kenya in agri sector

- India announced a \$250 million line of credit to Kenya for the modernisation of its agricultural sector as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto agreed to strengthen bilateral ties in the field of defence, trade, energy, digital public infrastructure and healthcare.
- President of Kenya: William Samoei Ruto.
- Capital: Nairobi.
- Currency: Kenyan Shilling.

Takeda partnered with BIRAC in India for healthcare innovation

- Takeda has signed a three-year MoU with India's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council to extend advisory and mentoring support to healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The partnership, announced at the Global Bio-India 2023 event, is a blueprint for how public and private entities can collaborate for substantial advances in healthcare.

Amity Innovation Incubator selected as key partner for iDEX Initiative

- Amity Innovation Incubator is a partner incubator for India's Ministry of Defence's initiative, Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX), aiming to enhance indigenous tech in the defence sector.
- iDEX connects various stakeholders, from start-ups to academia, to promote innovations for future defence and aerospace needs.
- It plans to spend around USD 220 Billion on modernizing armed forces.

Assam Govt & NDDDB signed MoU for holistic dairy development in state

- MoU signed between Assam Govt. and National Dairy Development Board to transform Assam's rural landscape through dairy farming, aiming to process 10 lakh litres of milk daily benefitting 1.75 lakh farmers.
- Initiative includes induction of 15000 Gir cows, and infrastructure for Cattle Feed manufacturing.
- Assam CM laid the foundation of Purabi Dairy's expansion project to expedite the mission.

iDEX-DIO signed contract for Gallium Nitride Semiconductors production

- iDEX signed 300th contract for Gallium Nitride Semiconductors, crucial for next-gen defence application as an initiative to foster independent design & manufacturing in India.
- Milestone reached in 9 months from 200th contract, showcasing swift progress in connecting innovators with the Defence Sector.
- iDEX drives defence innovations and job creation, attracting Indian talent back home.

TASL, Satellogic to establish local space tech capability in India

- Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. partnered with Satellogic Inc. to establish and develop local space technology capabilities in India, entering the rapidly expanding Indian defence and commercial market.
- The project includes training, knowledge transfer, and local assembly of optical sub-meter resolution Earth Observation satellites, with a focus on manufacturing satellites in India.

NLCIL Signs MoU with TNSDC & NTTF for Skill Development Training

- NLCIL Signs MoU with TNSDC & NTTF for Skill Development Training Programme for Unemployed Youth.
- NLCIL has committed to spend Rs1.12 lakh per candidate for this free residential programme under its budget for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R).
- This programme will help the candidates to become technically trained and get employment opportunities in premier companies.



National Current Affairs

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India unveiled its new logo

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India introduced a new CA India logo which has 'CA' in blue and an upside-down tricolour tick, symbolizing the wisdom of professionals.
- The colors and elements underline creativity, knowledge, stability, integrity and commitment to India.
- This was launched by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Global Professional Accountants Convention.

Cabinet approved projects worth Rs.5,500 crore for Bihar, North East

- The Union Cabinet approved road and bridge projects worth over Rs.5,500 crore, boosting infrastructure in Bihar and the North-East.
- A 4.56 km-long six-lane bridge over the Ganga, connecting Digha and Sonapur in Bihar will be built at a cost of Rs.3,064.45 crore.
- The new bridge aims to connect north and south Bihar, allowing transport by heavy vehicles, improving connectivity.

Bhupender Yadav launched National Transit Pass System (NTPS)

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav introduced the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) for efficient transit of timber, bamboo, and forest produce across India.
- NTPS aims to establish a 'One Nation-One Pass' regime, enhancing ease of doing business and promoting transparency.
- The user-friendly NTPS includes desktop and mobile applications, with 25 states and union territories.

President approved Chief Election Commissioner bill and GST amendment.

- President grants assent to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023.
- Appointments are to be made based on the Selection Committee's recommendation, consisting of the PM, Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.
- She also approved the Central Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Nadda to release stamp honoring Indian Tamils' contributions in Lanka.

- JP Nadda plans to release a postal stamp acknowledging the contributions of India-origin Tamils.
- The stamp recognizes their pivotal role in establishing Sri Lanka's plantation industry and infrastructure.
- The arrival of Indian-origin Tamils, dispatched by the British, marked.
- India's financial aid of USD 4 billion during an economic crisis was emphasized under the neighbour-first policy.

Power Minister inaugurated power grid's Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru.

- Power Minister RK Singh inaugurates Power Grid's Vishram Sadan in Bengaluru, built for Rs 23 crore.
- The 2-storey Vishram Sadan, equipped with 270 beds and 55 rooms, aims to provide comfort to patients' attendants.
- Power Grid's CSR initiatives, including similar Vishram Sadans across India, contribute to rural development, education, healthcare, and more, costing about Rs 1000 crores.

Power Minister laid foundation stone for ICER building at Bengaluru

- Union Minister Shri R. K. Singh lays the foundation for ICER building at IISc Bengaluru.
- Project value: Rs. 60.74 Crores.
- ICER focuses on renewable energy, green hydrogen, clean coal, and sustainable technologies.
- Aims to align with the Hon'ble PM's vision of a technologically empowered India.
- Dignitaries present include Shri K.J. George, Shri P.C. Mohan, and Shri Tejasvi Surya.

Govt to introduce GPS-based highway toll collection system

- The Indian government will introduce GPS-based toll collection systems by March next year to reduce traffic congestion, stated Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- FASTags and automatic number plate recognition systems, have effectively reduced average wait times.
- Govt. plans to bid road projects worth INR 1.5-2 lakh crore, favoring the Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) model.

PM Modi to inaugurate sleeper edition 'Amrit Bharat Express' on Dec 30

- PM Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 'Amrit Bharat Express', from Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, on December 30.
- Labelled as the "sleeper edition of the high-speed Vande Bharat trains", this train includes only second-class and sleeper-class compartments.
- A fare structure has been outlined by the Railway, with the minimum fare fixed at ₹35 for journeys within a range of 1 to 50 kilometers.

Government aims for 50 lakh Digital Life Certificates by march.

- The government has set a goal to collect 50 lakh Digital Life Certificates from Central Government Pensioners by March 2024.
- A saturation-based approach is advised for ensuring DLC submissions, with a focus on super senior pensioners above 80 years of age.
- As part of the DLC Campaign 2.0, 1.29 Crore pensioners have submitted DLCs so far.

Amit Shah declared Muslim League Jammu Kashmir as unlawful under UAPA.

- Amit Shah announced the declaration of MLJK-MA as an 'Unlawful Association' under UAPA.
- The organization was accused of anti-national, secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Government's stern message: Those jeopardizing unity and integrity will face the full force of the law.

President emphasized on women empowerment at 'Lakhpati Didi Sammelan'.

- President stressed the need for self-reliance and empowerment of every Indian woman to make India a developed nation.
- She highlighted the Government's efforts, like the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', to boost women's economic autonomy and political power.
- The President also emphasized the ongoing struggle for gender equality, emphasizing the importance of addressing gender disparities.

PM Unveiled first in series of collected works of Madan Mohan Malviya

- To mark the 162nd birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, PM Modi released the first set of a comprehensive eleven-volume collection.
- The event is part of 'Amrit Kaal', aimed at duly acknowledging the invaluable contributions of freedom fighters.
- The collection provides insights into Malaviya's life and numerous contributions to the Nation.

Vice President unveiled postal cover on justice Reddy's centenary.

- Vice-President Dhankhar released a special postal cover on late Justice Konda Madhav Reddy's 100th anniversary.
- Governor D. Tamilisai Soundararajan, among other dignitaries, presided over the event at AV College, Gagan Mahal.
- Justice Konda Madhav Reddy Foundation hosted the event to recognize the contributions of the former Chief Justice and Maharashtra Governor.

RailTel to carry out integrated tunnel communication system.

- RailTel, is set to implement an integrated tunnel communication system along the new Bhairabi-Sairang single line section of the Northeast Frontier Railway.
- RailTel will also provide emergency call arrangements in tunnels and integrated passenger information systems at railway stations on this route.
- The project is cost Rs 66.83 crore, with a combined length of around 12.643 kilometers.

Year-End Review 2023: highlights from the Ministry of Ayush.

- Ministry of Ayush marks 2023 with significant national and global achievements.
- It includes the first "Chintan Shivir", in the "Delhi Declaration" of G20, and the first ever Traditional Medicine Global Summit leading to the "Gujarat Declaration".
- It also includes the introduction of Ayush Visa, North-east development, Ayurveda Day, Unani Day, and World Homoeopathy Day.

Union Minister announced 48.3 GW new solar PV module manufacturing.

- National Solar Mission's target of generating 20k MW solar power by 2022 increased fivefold, aiming for 1,00,000 MW.
- Measures to increase renewable energy share include 100% FDI permission, ISTS charge waivers, and launch of Green Term Ahead Market.

- It also includes Development of Solar Parks & Ultra-mega Projects and Production Linked Incentive scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV modules.

Coal-Based Power Generation in India Rises by Over 8%.

- A significant rise in domestic coal-based power generation reaching almost 780 Billion Units between April and November 2023.
- Compared to last year, coal import for blending records a decrease of 44%, falling to over 15 metric tonnes.
- The Coal Ministry aims to augment coal production to enhance availability and diminish reliance on imported coal.

Raja Bhoj Airport authorized as immigration check post by central.

- Central Gov. has officially designated Bhoj Airport as an authorized Immigration Check Post for entry and exit.
- Alongside, the Chief Immigration Officer at the airport has been appointed as the 'Civil Authority' for the Immigration Check Post.
- Post establishment of immigration counters and e-gates, the airport has achieved check post status.

"Bengaluru's T2 acknowledged as a Top Globally Beautiful Airport.

- Terminal 2 at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport recognized globally by Prix Versailles as one of the most beautiful airport terminals.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the terminal, showcasing its national importance.
- The first phase, costing around ₹13,000 crores, built over 2.5 lakh square meters, can annually accommodate 25 million passengers.

Central Railway introduced 'Panic Button' safety feature for women.

- Red push buttons installed within each of the four ladies coaches will trigger an alert in emergencies.
- Until this installation, women relied on helpline calls, SMS, or chain-pulling in emergencies.
- Pushing the button, situated next to the alarm chain, will activate an audio and visual signal on flasher units outside the coach, alerting platform staff and fellow passengers.

Election Commissioner, Press Regulation Bills up for Lok Sabha Discuss

- Lok Sabha to consider the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill.
- The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill also among the scheduled discussions in the Lok Sabha.
- Various other bills like the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Telecommunications Bill will be addressed in the Rajya Sabha.

National Geoscience Data Repository Portal launched

- The Ministry of Mines hosted the first tranche of critical and strategic minerals auction.

- To increase domestic mineral production and reducing import reliance, the National Geoscience Data Repository Portal has been launched.
- It will congregate all baseline and exploration-related geoscientific data on a single platform, enhancing and facilitating the country's exploration coverage.

Gol to boost nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2032

- Gol aims to increase nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32, according to Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.
- Current annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has risen to 46982 Million Units in 2022-23 from 35334 Million Units in 2013-14.
- Dr Singh emphasised its role as a clean, constant source of electricity, to help India achieve net zero by 2070.

Paradip Port breaks record in cargo handling

- Paradip Port has set a new record by handling 100 Million Metric Tonnes of cargo in its shortest time yet, hitting the landmark in 262 days.
- Operational excellence marked by system improvements fueled 9.64% growth in total cargo, with outbound Iron Ore and Pellet displaying an impressive growth of 69.03%.
- The Port leads in performance parameters nationwide, with highest berth productivity.

IndiGo: 1st Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a year

- Indian airline IndiGo has created history by becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers within a single calendar year.
- IndiGo has expanded with over 20 new international routes in the last six months.
- Domestically, IndiGo continues to lead, having a market share of 61.8%, and notably made a historical order of 500 Airbus A320 planes earlier this year.

IIM Nagpur, AIIMS Nagpur, TimesPro launched PG Certificate Program

- The Indian Institute of Management Nagpur in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences Nagpur and TimesPro announced the launch of the inaugural batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Programme in Advanced Healthcare Management.
- It is designed for working professionals to work with healthcare professionals from AIIMS Nagpur and management professionals from IIM Nagpur.

10 lakh incidents of financial frauds registered on CFCFRMS portal

- More than ten lakh incidents of financial fraud have been registered on 'Citizen Financial Cyber Frauds Reporting and Management System' so far this year.
- An amount of more than 1K crore rupees have been saved in more than 4 lakh incidents since the inception of CFCFRMS in 2021.
- A toll-free Helpline number 1930 has been operationalized to get assistance in lodging online cyber incidents.

Central Goods and Services Tax 2nd Amendment Bill passed in Parliament

- The Central Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed.
- It aims to amend the 2017 CGST Act to allow the central government to establish an Appellate Tribunal.
- The Bill adjusts the age limit for Tribunal members, permits advocates with a minimum of 10 years' experience to be appointed as judicial members, and aligns provisions with the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

Indian Coast Guard assisted Tamil Nadu government in flood relief ops

- Indian Coast Guard has deployed six Disaster Relief Teams and an Offshore Patrol Vessel with a helicopter in response to flooding in the Tamil Nadu region.
- The teams are conducting rescue operations and providing essential supplies.
- The floods, caused by excessive rains on 17-18 Dec 2023, have primarily impacted the Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts.

India begun its 1st winter expedition to Arctic

- India begun its 1st winter expedition to the Ny-Alesund research base in Svalbard, Norway.
- The expedition has been launched by Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju.
- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has a research station, Himadri.
- The expedition will collect data on atmospheric processes, aurora borealis, atmospheric electricity, and space physics studies.

Centre Issues Advisory to States Amidst Surge Detection of JN1 Variant

- Union Health Secretary emphasizes the need for continuous vigilance over the COVID-19 situation in India.
- States are advised to implement public health measures, conduct adequate RT-PCR tests, and send positive samples for genome sequencing.
- Emphasis on monitoring and reporting Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases at the district level too.

Rajya Sabha passed Post Office Bill

- Rajya Sabha passed the Post Office Bill which repealed and replaced the Post Office Act of 1898.
- The Bill, according to the government will ensure the effective functioning of the Postal Department as a messenger service and as a provider of banking facilities.
- This new legislation is a reflection of the way post offices and postmen have been transformed into a service-delivery institution.

PM inaugurated Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023

- PM Modi inaugurated Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 in Varanasi, launching multi-lingual and braille translations of classic Tamil literature.
- The event celebrated the age-old connection between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, with PM highlighting the shared cultural heritage.
- The Tamil Sangamam is aimed to help continue empowering India's heritage, and strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Surat Diamond Exchange - world's largest office inaugurated by PM Modi

- Surat Diamond bourse covers a constructed area of 6.7 million square feet and was completed in July at a cost of ₹ 32 billion.
- The bourse comprises a state-of-the-art 'Customs Clearance House' for Import-Export; a jewellery mall for retail jewellery businesses; and a facility for international banking and safe vaults.
- It has nine 15-story towers and about 4,700 offices.

Moving Off Information Systems: an advanced driver assistance system

- Central Motor Vehicle Rules-Technical Standing Committee and Automotive Industry Standards Committee have taken up the work to formulate standards for Moving Off Information Systems (MOIS) for vehicles.
- MOIS is a driver assistance system to aid drivers.
- MOIS detects and informs the driver of the presence of pedestrians and cyclists in the close-proximity forward blind-spot of the vehicle.

NHAI launched Computer Aided Dispatch System to address road emergency

- National Highways Authority India has developed a Computer Aided Dispatch System to assist the 1033 call centre operators to locate the nearest available on-road unit ambulance, crane, patrol unit, etc.
- It has developed NHAI ERS Mobile Application to relay the dispatch related information to the on-road units.
- This system has been developed to make the response to emergency calls faster.

PM Modi to launch 37 development projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 37 development projects worth around 20 thousand crore rupees today in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi is the parliamentary constituency of PM Modi.
- Prime Minister will inaugurate the New Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar-New Bhaupur Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.
- He will also flag off the 10,000th locomotive made by Banaras Locomotive Works.

Army Hospital conducted India's 1st Bone Marrow Transplant

- Army Hospital in Delhi conducted India's first life-saving Bone Marrow Transplant for a child with a rare immunodeficiency disorder, ARPC1b.
- The procedure aims to replace defective immune cells with healthy ones, offering hope for similar cases.
- Success of the transplant within six months of referral marked a milestone for the Defense Ministry.

Union cabinet declared Surat Airport as an International Airport

- The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, has approved Surat Airport's designation as an International Airport.

- This will facilitate exports & imports for the local diamond and textile industries, and position Surat as a key international aviation hub.
- The upgrade is set to boost economic growth, attract foreign investment, and stimulate regional development.

Pune accomplished Guinness World Record of largest reading activity

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has lauded the Guinness World Record of the largest reading activity on 14 Dec 2023 at SP College, Pune.
- In this event, 3066 parents read to their children to promote reading culture in the society through storytelling.
- Pune secured a place in 'Guinness World Record' for hosting the largest collaborative reading event surpassing China's previous record.

ASEAN-India Millet Festival inaugurated at New Delhi

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare inaugurated ASEAN-India Millet Festival at New Delhi.
- In line with the International Year of Millets, the festival aims to increase awareness and establish a larger market for millet and millet based products.
- Millet provides benefits to farmers, consumers, environment, makes an important contribution to global food-nutrition security.

Health Minister inaugurated CGHS Wellness Centres in NITRD, Delhi

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced plans to bolster CGHS Wellness Centres nationwide from 80 to 100, enhancing healthcare accessibility.
- Mandaviya launched three new CGHS Wellness Centres and a robotic surgery unit at the National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases, strengthening specialized health facilities.

'Mission Antarctica' carried out by Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt flagged-in a team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling that carried out 'Mission Antarctica'.
- The team hoisted the National Flag, measuring 7,500 sq ft across the length and breadth of the country, including atop Mt Rhenock in Sikkim Himalayas.
- The team also displayed the Tri-colour over Mount Vinson Peak, the highest peak of South Pole.

Strategic Framework of Drowning Prevention in India

- Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare Professor S.P. Singh Bhagel and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar released the Strategic Framework of Drowning Prevention in India, in New Delhi.
- The ministry has released the framework in a bid to reduce preventable drowning incidents in the country.
- The framework aims to undertake and catalyze concrete action and attention to drowning prevention.

Udaiti Foundation launched "Close the Gender Gap" initiative

- The Udaiti Foundation has launched "Close the Gender Gap (CGG)" Initiative to Lead a Shift in Gender Equality and Promote Inclusive Workplace Policies.
- The CGG platform marked a historic milestone by compiling longitudinal company-wise data from 2000 companies based on market capitalization, offering an unparalleled perspective on gender representation and policies.

National Book Promotion Council reconstituted for NEP 2020 enactment

- In adherence to the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, the Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan held a meeting of the reconstituted National Book Promotion Council.
- The purpose was to assess the draft National Book Promotion Policy prepared by the Expert Advisory Committee.
- The need to place greater emphasis on digital content was discussed.

India welcomed 6.43 million foreign tourists in the first nine months

- The initiatives of the Union government to boost tourism in the country evidenced by the recording of 6.43 million foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) between January and September 2023.
- This has translated into foreign exchange earnings amounting to 1,66,660 crores in the same period.
- The above numbers have been unveiled by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

PM Modi approved first project to tackle Chennai urban floods

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore on the aftermath of Cyclone Michaung disaster.
- The budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore came under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
- This initiative is aimed at bolstering the city's defenses against the recurrent threat of floods.

Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370

- The CJI-led Constitution Bench said that Article 370 was enacted due to wartime conditions in J&K and served a transitional purpose.
- SC held that J&K did not retain any internal sovereignty and that the concurrence of J&K Government was not required.
- SC also directed the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the J&K Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2024.

India's 1st six lane steel slag based road constructed

- India's first six lane steel slag based road connecting NH-6 to Hazira port have been constructed at Surat Hazira using processed steel slag aggregates.
- Ministry of Steel under the project "Development of Design Guidelines and Specifications for utilization of steel slag in road construction" is being pursued by CSIR-CRRI in association with the steel industry.

Amit Shah chairs Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Patna

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 26th Eastern Zonal Meeting in Patna.
- Addressing the representatives of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha Mr. Shah appealed to all members to work with the spirit of cooperative federalism for all-round development.

New branch of CAT, Mumbai Bench inaugurated by CJI Chandrachud

- Chief Justice of India, Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, inaugurated the new premises of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench.
- He commended the Central Government's support in establishing judicial infrastructure.
- He has further elaborated the creation of the Tribunals by 42nd amendment with the objective of combating the delays and backlog faced by the Courts.

Ministry of Textiles to host 'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' in Mumbai

- The Ministry of Textiles will organize country's largest ever 'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' in India's financial capital, Mumbai, December 10th 2023.
- 'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' aims to promote handloom sari culture in India.
- Previously, Sari Walkathon was organized in Surat.
- Over 5000 women from fields of Bollywood & television, sports and others to participate in the walkathon.

'Garba' dance included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list

- UNESCO has approved the inclusion of Gujarat's traditional Garba dance in its 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.
- India had nominated Garba, performed across Gujarat and in many other parts of the country during the Navratri festival, for inclusion in the list.

RPF saved 520 children from trafficking under Operation Nanhe Faristey

- In November 2023, the Railway Protection Force made significant strides in crime prevention across Indian Railways.
- Notable achievements include the rescue of 35 individuals from traffickers, the arrest of 91 individuals related to drug crimes and successful reunion of 520 lost children with their families.
- These efforts highlight RPF's steadfast commitment to passenger safety and security.

World's 1st portable hospital 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' opened

- 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube', the world's first portable hospital, launched in Gurugram.
- Under Project 'BHISHM' it has been launched.
- It is capable of handling emergencies, it's highly portable and quick to deploy.
- Comprising of 72 specialized detachable mini-cubes, it can provide swift medical assistance, including surgeries, for around 200 patients, catering to diverse injuries.

Battle of Minds-Indian Army Quiz 2023 held at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi

- The "Battle of Minds – Indian Army Quiz 2023", commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War, concluded in Delhi.

- The inter-school quiz, the largest in India, involved over 32,000 schools.
- St John's School, Varanasi emerged victorious.
- The initiative paid tribute to the Kargil War's heroes and aimed to kindle intellectual growth and leadership among young students.

Pharmacy Council of India to launch revamped 'DIGI-PHARMed' portal

- The Pharmacy Council of India is launching an enhanced "DIGI-PHARMed" application aimed at regulating pharmacy education across India.
- The cloud-based portal brings services for institutions, students, pharmacists, and job seekers, moving towards digitizing registration and enrollment.
- The revamped system enhances user satisfaction, eases the registration process and bolsters transparency.

Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurates Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in New Delhi

- Union Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the Sahitya Akademi Book Fair in New Delhi.
- The Sahitya Akademi Book Fair will continue till 9th of this month and feature a host of cultural programs and rendezvous with prominent writers.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal is Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

Monthly Revision November: Nation Affairs - I

- Centre renames Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres
- Bay of Bengal braces for fourth cyclonic storm Michaung
- Education Campaign, titled, New Education for New India
- J&K: Saffron of Kishtwar district receives GI tag
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn
- PM launched PM-PVTG Mission Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra
- National Campaign against Gender Violence 'Nai Chetna' to be launched

Monthly Revision November: Nation Affairs - II

- India's Largest Cold Oil Production Facility to be opened in Gujarat
- Amit Shah launches Bharat Organics brand of cooperative body NCOL
- Legal Literacy and Awareness Program reaches more than 6 lakh people
- Jal Diwali Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign launched
- Art exhibition Silent Conversation: from Margins to Centre launched
- PM Modi to inaugurate World Food India 2023 in New Delhi

Monthly Revision November: Appointments - II

- Surendra Kumar Adhana re-elected at UN Advisory Committee
- IPS officer Pravin Madhukar Pawar appointed as CBI joint director
- RBI appoints Manoranjan Mishra as new Executive Director
- SC appoints Justice S.R. Chowdhury as Permanent Judge of Calcutta HC
- Justice Rajendra Menon appointed as Chairman of Armed Forces Tribunal



- Deepesh Nanda appointed as CEO & MD of Tata Power Renewable Energy

5th Global Ayurveda Festival to be held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- GAF 2023 in Kerala aims to bridge challenges in Healthcare with a resurgent Ayurveda.
- The Festival features expert-led sessions on Ayurveda's advancements.
- It also hosts India's inaugural B2B meet on Ayurveda medical tourism, connecting global buyers with Indian healthcare pioneers.
- GAF 2023 includes free medical camps with 25 specialty clinics and Ayurveda Aahar food court.

Ministry of Jal Shakti conducted 'Jal Itihas Utsav' in Mehrauli, Delhi

- The National Water Mission, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing 'Jal Itihas Utsav' at Shamsi Talab, Jahaz Mahal situated in Mehrauli, Delhi on 1st December, 2023.
- It aims to raise public consciousness about safeguarding water heritage sites.
- The event marks the culmination of "Water Heritage Fortnight" being celebrated in various districts across the nation.

Prime Minister inaugurated the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra

- PM Narendra Modi launched the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar.
- This effort reinforces the government's commitment towards affordable public healthcare under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- Janaushadhi Kendras across India provide quality medicines at 50%-90% lower costs, greatly benefiting the poor and the middle-class socio-economic strata.



Appointments Current Affairs

IPS Utkal Ranjan Sahoo took additional charge of Rajasthan DGP

- IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahoo has assumed the additional charge of Rajasthan Director-General of Police (DGP), following the voluntary retirement of the previous DGP, Umesh Mishra.
- A 1988 batch officer, Sahoo previously served as the Director General and Commandant General of Home Guards in Rajasthan.
- Originally from Odisha, Sahoo was promoted to DG rank in June 2020.

Vice president appointed as ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry

- The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has been appointed as the ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University.
- This appointment is a result of a modification to Statute 1(1) of the Pondicherry University Act 1985.
- Effective from December 5, Dhankhar's new role was announced in the official gazette by the Government of India.

Rashmi Govil tapped as next director (HR) of Indian Oil.

- Rashmi Govil, currently serving as Executive Director at Indian Oil, was recommended for the Director (HR) role by the PESB panel.
- With 30+ years of HR expertise, Govil's leadership focuses on HR strategy, talent management, and digital adoption.
- As a Board member, she will spearhead personnel policies, industrial relations, and overall administrative control at Indian Oil.

Vivek Srivastava assumed charge as DG of fire service & civil defence

- ACC sanctions the appointment of Vivek Srivastava, Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards.
- A 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, Srivastava's tenure extends till June 30, 2025.
- Currently serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau, Srivastava brings a wealth of experience to his new role in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

China appointed "Dong Jun" as new Defense Minister.

- "Dong Jun", a 62-year-old military commander, was appointed as China's Defense Minister, replacing Li Shangfu.
- "Li Shangfu" went missing in August, leading to his removal; circumstances surrounding the disappearance remain unclear.
- Dong Jun's extensive experience in PLA, particularly in theater commands, signifies a strategic move amidst internal changes in China's leadership.

SC recommended Chief Justices of Rajasthan, Gawhati, and Allahabad.

- The Supreme Court recommended five judges for appointment as chief justices of various high courts.

- Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava for Rajasthan, Justice Sheel Nagu for Punjab and Haryana, Vijay Bishnoi for Gawhati, Arun Bhansali for Allahabad, and B R Sarangi for Jharkhand.
- The Collegium, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, includes Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai as members.

Nina Singh became 1st woman to head Central Industrial Security Force

- The Centre appointed Nina Singh as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), making her the first woman to head this elite force.
- IPS officer Rahul Rasgotra has been appointed as the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- Ex. ITBP chief Anish Dayal Singh has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Akkala Sudhakar appointed to Central Board of Film Certification Panel

- Acclaimed Hyderabad builder Akkala Sudhakar appointed to the Central Board of Film Certification Advisory Panel.
- With extensive cinematic knowledge, Sudhakar addresses expected impact on Indian film industry, pledging to uphold standards for its growth.
- His appointment reflects talented Hyderabad film community, fostering anticipation for his positive contributions to the film sector.

Former Kolkata CP Rajeev Kumar appointed as new Bengal DGP

- IPS officer Rajeev Kumar has been appointed as the new Director General of Police for West Bengal, succeeding Manoj Malaviya who retired recently.
- Kumar previously served as the chief of Kolkata Police, Bidhannagar Police, and also led the CID and STF.
- In 2019, CM Banerjee held a protest when a Central Bureau of Investigation team sought to question Kumar over an alleged chit-fund scam.

B.P. Gopalika to take over as new chief secretary of West Bengal

- B.P. Gopalika, the current home secretary and an IAS officer from the 1989 batch, is set to become the new chief secretary of Bengal following the end of incumbent H.K. Dwivedi's tenure on December 31.
- He worked in the transport, personnel & administrative reforms departments and home department.
- He will oversee the Lok Sabha elections in his new role as the administrative head of the state.

Katie Moon named International Event Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon

- Olympic gold medalist and two-time pole vault World Champion, Katie Moon, has been named the International Event Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon 2024.
- Moon has also won gold medals at World Athletics Championships and a top slot in Diamond League in 2023.

- Mumbai Marathon, classified as a World Athletics Gold Label Race and one of the world's top 10 marathons, will be held on January 21, 2024.

CS Rajan assumed chairmanship of Kotak Mahindra Bank upon RBI approval

- The Reserve Bank of India has sanctioned CS Rajan's two-year tenure as Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Effective from January 1, 2024, Rajan succeeds Prakash Apte whose term concludes at the end of 2023.
- Rajan, a retired Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, previously served as an Independent Director on the bank's board.

LIC appoints S Sunder Krishnan as chief risk officer succeeding Pratap

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announces S Sunder Krishnan as the new Chief Risk Officer (CRO).
- Krishnan, a chartered accountant, brings 18 years of experience from leadership roles at Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- He takes over the role from Pratap Chandra Paikray, as confirmed in a regulatory filing by LIC.

Sebi gave nod to appoint Pramod Agrawal as BSE Chairman

- Pramod Agrawal has been approved by SEBI to chair Bombay Stock Exchange from January 17, 2024, succeeding S S Mundra, whose term will conclude on January 16.
- BSE is an Indian stock exchange which is located on Dalal Street in Mumbai.
- Established in 1875 by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand, it is the oldest stock exchange in Asia and tenth largest in the world.

Bisleri signed Deepika Padukone as it's Global Brand Ambassador

- Bisleri, an Indian mineral water brand, has signed Deepika Padukone as its first global brand ambassador for the new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp, celebrating the importance of hydration.
- The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including TV, digital, and OTT platforms.
- Padukone is set to be featured on all Bisleri product packaging.

Kartik Aaryan signed as Brand Ambassador for Football on Sony Sports

- Sony Sports Network, India's go-to for football, has appointed Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan, also a football fan, as its Brand Ambassador for football.
- The network has launched the 'Your Home of Football' campaign, featuring films with Aaryan to portray the broadcaster's wide array of football offerings and the actor's passion for the game.

New Indian high commissioner Santosh Jha assumed office in Sri Lanka.

- He has commenced his official duties and presented his credentials to President Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Jha succeeds Gopal Baglay as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, following Baglay's new appointment as the High Commissioner of India to Australia.

- Prior to his post in Sri Lanka, Jha was a senior diplomat serving as India's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium & Luxembourg.

Vita Dani, first Indian to join ITTF foundation's governing board.

- ITTF welcomes Dani, praising her passion for the sport and her vision for its growth and impact on the community. Dani's objective is to make table tennis accessible to everyone.
- Dani and her organization, the Dani Foundation, have majorly contributed to the recent upliftment of Indian table tennis.
- She also co-owns the Chennaiyin Football Club in the Indian Super League.

Sanjay Singh elected president of Wrestling Federation of India.

- He defeated Anita Sheoran by 40 votes to 7.
- Singh served on the WFI's previous executive council and was joint secretary since 2019.
- The delayed election process came amid court cases and a suspension of WFI by United World Wrestling for not conducting timely polls.

Uday A Kaole Takes Over as CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

- Uday A Kaole assumes the position of CMD at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a Coal India subsidiary.
- Previously, Kaole served as the Director (Technical) at Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL).
- Boasting 36 years of experience, Kaole has worked in challenging underground and opencast coal mining operations.

Pramod Sharma Appointed as Director (Works) of NHRCL

- The ACC has approved Pramod Sharma's appointment as the Director (Works) of NHRCL.
- Sharma is an IRSE officer and currently serves as Principal Executive Director (Contract) at NHRCL.
- Appointed on a deputation basis, his term extends until he reaches 60 years or further orders.

Amrita Raichand named Health Ambassador for Salaam Bombay Foundation

- Amrita Raichand partners with Salaam Bombay Foundation, becoming a Health Ambassador for their Preventive Health Education Programme.
- The initiative focuses on advancing nutrition knowledge in underserved communities, mainly among Mumbai's urban slum adolescents.
- The partnership aims to counter malnutrition and junk food consumption, prevalent among children in Mumbai's municipal schools.

IPS Maheshwar Dayal took over as Director General of Prisons

- Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal has assumed his new role as Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services.
- Dayal brought vast experience, having served as Superintendent of Police across several districts.
- Prior to his new appointment, he was the ADGP and held notable positions such as Inspector General of Police for Anti-Naxal Operations and Economic Offences in Tamil Nadu.

Ex-CM Raman Singh elected speaker of Chhattisgarh assembly

- Senior BJP MLA and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh was unanimously elected as the speaker of the state legislative assembly.
- Chief Minister Vinshu Deo Sai moved a proposal for the election of 71-year-old Singh as the speaker which was seconded by Deputy CM Arun Sao.
- Singh, a seven-term MLA, has won Rajnandgaon seat for four consecutive times - in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023.

Israel approved appointment of Reuven Azar as new Ambassador to India

- The Israeli government approved the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India.
- Azar, who is in his late 50s, will also serve as the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan, a statement from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.
- His appointment is one of the 21 new Heads of Missions cleared by the Israeli government to assume service soon.

Uma Sekhar, 1st Indian lady elected to governing council of UNIDROIT

- Uma Sekhar, the first Indian woman candidate, was historically elected to the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.
- Earning 45 out of 59 votes, Sekhar secured her seat for 2024-2028.
- UNIDROIT, an intergovernmental organization based in Rome, focuses on modernizing and coordinating private, particularly commercial, law between states.

Parama Sen appointed part-time member of PFRDA board

- The Centre has appointed Parama Sen, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, as a part-time member in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- PFRDA has a chairman besides three whole-time members and three part-time members.
- All three part-time member posts in PFRDA board are now filled.

Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy appointed as Hyderabad Police Commissioner

- The new Congress government in Telangana has appointed 1994 batch additional director general of police Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy as Hyderabad police commissioner.
- The government has also appointed Avinash Mohanty as Cyberabad police commissioner, whereas Sudheer Babu was appointed as Rachakonda commissioner.
- Sandeep Shandilya is posted as director of Telangana State Anti Narcotics Bureau.

Tribal Leader Vishnu Deo Sai Is New Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

- Vishnu Deo Sai – tribal leader and former Union Minister – is the BJP's pick as the next Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.
- The four-term MP -- who has been the president of the Chhattisgarh unit of the party from 2020 to 2022 -- is known for his organisational capability and has a non-controversial image.

- The BJP won 54 seats in the 90-member Assembly in the recently held assembly election.

Shri Pu. Lalduhoma took oath as the Chief Minister of Mizoram

- PM Modi has congratulated Shri Pu. Lalduhoma on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Mizoram.
- Lalduhoma is an Indian politician and a former Indian Police Service officer who is serving as the 6th Chief Minister of Mizoram.
- Resigning from the security service to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he was elected as Member of Parliament to the Lok Sabha from Mizoram in 1984.

Rajiv Anand to replace Analjit Singh as chairman of Max Life Insurance

- Max Financial Services announced the appointment of Rajiv Anand as the Chairman of Max Life Insurance, effective December 5, 2023, replacing Analjit Singh.
- Rajiv Anand, currently Deputy Managing Director of Axis Bank, has been a non-executive director of Max Life Insurance.
- "Max New York Life, was the first private sector insurance company to be incorporated in India on July 11, 2000.

India-born media veteran Dr Samir Shah selected as new BBC chairman

- Dr Samir Shah, an India-born media executive with over 40 years of experience in TV production and journalism, has been named as the UK government's preferred candidate to take over as the new BBC chairman.
- He was honoured with CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage, will replace Richard Sharp.

Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi to be the new Vice Chief of Naval Staff

- Starting January 2024, Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi will take over the prestigious post of Vice Chief of the Naval Staff from Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, who has been serving in the position since April 1, 2023.
- Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi is currently serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

Jithesh John takes charge as IBBI's Executive Director

- Jithesh John, a 2001 batch Indian Economic Service Officer, has taken charge as Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- Earlier, John served as an economic adviser in the Ministry of Power.
- He has completed more than 21 years in Government of India in various capacities.

Kanchan Devi became 1st woman officer to be appointed as DG of ICFRE

- Kanchan Devi, an Indian Forest Service Officer from the 1991 batch of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has become the Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education.
- She is the first woman to hold this prestigious position under MoEFCC.
- ICFRE, based in Dehradun, is the leading organization advising the Government of India on forestry research and conservation.

Narayan Sheshadri appointed as IDRCL chairman

- Former KPMG managing partner Narayan Seshadri will take over as chairman of the India Debt Resolution Co Ltd (IDRCL).
- Ex. IDRCL chairman Diwakar Gupta resigned to take up a post at parent National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL).
- NARCL and IDRCL aim to address the mounting problem of bad loans and non-performing assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.

Veera Rana took over as Madhya Pradesh chief secretary

- Iqbal Singh Bains has retired as Madhya Pradesh chief secretary and Veera Rana took over.
- Bains was given a grand farewell at the secretariat.
- Veera Rana is the second woman to hold the post of chief secretary in MP.
- She will retire in March next year.
- She is a 1988 batch IAS officer.

Air Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra took over IAF's Western Air Command

- Air Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra has taken over as the Senior Air Staff Officer of Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force on 01 December 2023.
- The Air Marshal is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy.
- He has served across the length and breadth of our nation having flown over 3500 hour, primarily on Mig-21 variants and the Mig-29 aircraft.

Monthly Revision November: Appointments - I

- Col Sunita became 1st woman to command Armed Forces Transfusion center
- Vinay Tonse appointed as SBI MD for two years
- 3 judges appointed to SC; top court to now function with full strength
- Hitesh Kumar S Makwana appointed Surveyor General of India
- Heeralal Samariya sworn-in as Chief Information Commissioner
- PM Modi re-elected as the chairman of Shree Somnath Trust

Monthly Revision November: Appointments - II

- Surendra Kumar Adhana re-elected at UN Advisory Committee
- IPS officer Pravin Madhukar Pawar appointed as CBI joint director
- RBI appoints Manoranjan Mishra as new Executive Director
- SC appoints Justice S.R. Chowdhury as Permanent Judge of Calcutta HC
- Justice Rajendra Menon appointed as Chairman of Armed Forces Tribunal
- Deepesh Nanda appointed as CEO & MD of Tata Power Renewable Energy



Obituaries Current Affairs

Former EU Commission President Jacques Delors passed away at 98

- Jacques Delors, a former European Commission President passed away, aged 98.
- Delors served as Commission president for three terms from 1985 to 1994.
- During his tenure, the EU saw significant integration, including the completion of a single market and the agreement to introduce a common currency.

Actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth passed away

- Vijayakanth, DMDK founder and Tamil cinema veteran, fondly known as Captain, has passed away due to pneumonia.
- He was a successful actor earning the 'Captain' title after his 100th film 'Captain Prabhakaran' became a hit.
- Transitioning to politics, he successfully led DMDK, allying with AIADMK in 2011, and secured the position of Leader of the Opposition.

Legendary Kannada film personality Leelavathi passed away

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief on the passing away of legendary Kannada film personality Leelavathi.
- Leelavathi was an Indian actress who worked predominantly in Kannada films, in addition to Tamil and Telugu films. She acted in more than 600 films.
- She was the recipient of the Dr. Rajkumar Award in 1999 and Filmfare Awards.

Veteran actor Naeem Sayyed passes away

- Veteran actor Naeem Sayyed, popularly known as Junior Mehmood, passed away at his residence in Mumbai after a battle with stomach cancer.
- He was 67.
- Junior Mehmood, was known for his work in films like Do Raaste, Caravan, Haathi Mere Saathi and Mera Naam Joker.
- He started out as a child artiste with Mohabbat Zindagi Hai and Naunihaal in the 60s.

Former IAS officer Christy Fernandez passes away in Kochi

- He served as the Secretary to former President Pratibha Patil and had contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election as an independent candidate from Ernakulam.
- He was 73.
- A Gujarat cadre IAS officer, Dr. Fernandez, served as the Principal Secretary of Urban Development, at the Government of Gujarat, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Secretary, of the Ministry of Tourism.

Veteran actor R. Subbalakshmi passes away

- Veteran actor R. Subbalakshmi, best known for her immense contribution to Malayalam cinema, has passed away.
- She was 87.

- Subbalakshmi was also a trained singer.
- Her last Tamil was Vijay-starrer 'Beast'.
- She acted as late Sushant Singh Rajput's grandmother in 'Dil Bechara'.
- Subbalakshmi, a former employee of All India Radio, also worked as a dubbing artist.



Person in News Current Affairs

IPS Anand Mishra resigned, aims for freedom and social service

- IPS officer Anand Mishra, part of the SIT on Manipur ethnic clash, resigns to pursue a life of "freedom and independence."
- Mishra, dubbed "Assam's Singham" on social media, submitted his resignation letter to the chief secretary on December 18.
- The 2011 batch IPS officer expressed his desire to work for the betterment of people in his native village in Bihar.

Supreme Court Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul retired on 25th December

- Sanjay Kishan Kaul served as SC judge from 2017 to 2023 and as ex officio executive chairman of NALSA.
- He was Chief Justice of Madras High Court and Punjab and Haryana High Court, as well as a judge of the Delhi High Court.
- Kaul delivered notable judgments, including ruling affirming Privacy as a Fundamental Right, and upholding Freedom of Speech in a case involving artist M F Husain.

December 27, 2023: 200th birthday of Louis Pasteur

- December 27 commemorates the 200th birthday of Louis Pasteur.
- Louis Pasteur is renowned for his breakthroughs in the principle of vaccination, microbial fermentation, and pasteurization.
- He invented pasteurization, a process of heating beverages like milk and wine to between 60 and 100 °C to kill most bacteria and molds.
- Pasteur's last major work was developing the first vaccine for rabies.

Charan Singh: The Kisan Leader and Champion of Land Reforms

- Charan Singh served as India's PM from 1979-1980.
- His commitment to land reforms and fight against the exploitation by affluent landowners, or zamindars, highlighted profound issues within India's rural economy.
- Through publications such as 'Abolition of Zamindari' and 'India's Poverty and its Solution', Singh sought to shed light on the essential issues faced by farmers.

Women's rights champion Dr. Mohini Giri passed away at 86.

- Dr. Mohini Giri, a women's rights activist who served as Chair of the National Commission for Women has passed away at the age of 86.
- She founded the War Widows Association in 1972, drawing national and international attention to the often overlooked issues faced by widows.
- Her multifaceted contributions and relentless pursuit of women's empowerment earned her the Padma Bhushan in 2007.

Death Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 15th December

- PM Modi has paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his Punya Tithi.

- Sardar Patel was an Indian independence nationalist who served as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India.
- He organised Kheda, Borsad and Bardoli non-violent civil disobedience satyagraha against the British Raj.
- His work towards national integration made him recognized as the "Iron Man of India"

Birth Anniversary of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Shri Pranab Mukherjee on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Pranab Mukherjee was an Indian politician and statesman who served as the 13th president of India from 2012 until 2017.
- He was born in 11th December 1935.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 2019.

4th December: Birth anniversary of former president R. Venkataraman

- Ramaswamy Venkataraman was an Indian lawyer, Indian independence activist and politician who served as a Union Minister and as the eighth president of India.
- He was born in Rajamadam village in Tanjore district, Madras Presidency.
- He was an activist of the Indian independence movement and participated in the Quit India Movement.
- He also served as Union Finance Minister and Defence Minister.

3rd December: Birth anniversary of former president Rajendra Prasad

- Rajendra Prasad served as the first president of India from 1950 to 1962, the only president to serve two consecutive full terms.
- In Indian independence movement, he was detained during Salt Satyagraha and Quit India movement.
- A key figure in drafting India's Constitution, Prasad served as President of the Constituent Assembly.
- In 1947, he was India's first Minister of Food & Agriculture.



Science and Technology Current Affairs

ISRO to launch 50 Geo-Intelligence Satellites in next 5 years

- ISRO plans to launch 50 satellites in the next five years for geo-intelligence tasks to strengthen India's national strength, stated ISRO Chairman S Somanath.
- These satellites will form an orbital layer capable of tracing troop movements and imaging large areas.
- These satellites will enhance changepoint detection capabilities, bolstering surveillance capabilities.

Mengxiang, China's deep sea mining vessel to study earth's mantle

- 'Mengxiang,' meaning 'dream' in Chinese, is a state-of-the-art ocean drilling vessel unveiled by China.
- It aims to explore Earth's mantle and vast deep-sea resources.
- The ship is China's first independently developed and constructed drilling vessel has got world's deepest drilling capacity.
- Mengxiang was officially named and launched on December 18, 2023.

SpaceX set to launch military's X-37B robot spaceplane.

- SpaceX set to launch the military's X-37B robot spaceplane on its seventh mission using the Falcon Heavy rocket.
- Launch, scheduled from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, marks the first time the X-37B will ride atop a rocket capable of reaching a higher orbit.
- The Boeing-built X-37B, resembling a miniature space shuttle, will deploy payloads and conduct experiments on extended orbital missions.

Space startups set to launch payloads on ISRO's PSLV-C58 XPoSat task.

- Dhruva Space, Bellatrix Aerospace, and TM2Space to launch payloads on ISRO's PSLV-C58 XPoSat Mission.
- Dhruva Space's LEAPTD (Launching Expeditions for Aspiring Technologies Technology Demonstrator) will showcase microsatellite subsystems.
- Bellatrix Aerospace plans to launch two payloads, including the Rudra 0.3 HPGP green monopropellant thruster and ARKA 200, a thruster variant.

Monthly Revision December: Science & Technology-I

- NASA Launched mission 'God of Chaos' asteroid threatening Earth
- ISRO launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students
- Japan successfully launched H-IIA rocket carrying Moon lander
- China's long March-11 carrier rocket successfully lifts off.
- X-ray bursts from a neutron star discovered by Astrosat observatory
- Nvidia, MediaTek to bring gaming, AI to car infotainment systems

Monthly Revision December: Science & Technology-II

- Google announced AI-powered features for Maps in India
- Accenture opened genAI studio in Bengaluru
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Project started Controlled Fission Chain Reaction
- KPIT Technologies launched first ever sodium-ion battery technology
- World's 1st Methane powered rocket "Zhuque 2" launched by China
- China launched MisrSat-2 satellite into space jointly with Egypt

NASA Launched mission 'God of Chaos' asteroid threatening Earth

- NASA relaunched OSIRIS-APEX mission to study 'God of Chaos' asteroid Apophis approaching Earth's orbit.
- The spacecraft, returning from deep space, aims to understand the potential effects of Apophis's close flyby in 2029.
- Apophis, known for its 370-yard size, will be just 20,000 miles from Earth, closer than some man-made satellites, on April 13, 2029.

ISRO launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students

- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre of ISRO has developed FEAST (Finite Element Analysis of Structures), a software for performing Finite Element Analysis on various structures including rockets, aircraft, satellites, and buildings.
- FEA is a method used to predict how a structure reacts to real-world forces, assisting in design, product development.
- It is aimed to bolster structural engineering

Japan successfully launched H-IIA rocket carrying Moon lander

- Japan successfully launched its H-IIA rocket, carrying JAXA's Moon lander SLIM, set to land on the moon next year.
- The mission comes weeks after India's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- Launched from Tanegashima Space Center, the rocket also carries the X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) to study origins of the universe and intergalactic space.

China's long March-11 carrier rocket successfully lifts off.

- China successfully launched the Long March-11 carrier rocket into space, placing three satellites in the planned orbit.
- The launch was executed from waters off Yangjiang, located in southern China's Guangdong Province.
- The newly launched satellites will primarily be used for space science and technological experiments.

New bacteria 'Pantoea Tagorei' named after Rabindranath Tagore

- Researchers from Visva-Bharati University discovered a new bacteria, 'Pantoea Tagorei,' capable of boosting plant growth, which can transform agricultural practices.
- This bacteria, isolated from soil in Sonajhuri and Jharia coal mine, efficiently extracts soil nutrients, reducing commercial fertiliser usage.

- The discovery has been recognised by Association of Microbiologists of India.

X-ray bursts from a neutron star discovered by Astrosat observatory

- India's first multi-wavelength space observatory, AstroSat, has detected sub-second X-ray bursts from a unique neutron star with an ultrahigh magnetic field known as a Magnetar.
- Scientists from Raman Research Institute and University of Delhi used two instruments onboard AstroSat to analyze the magnetar's timing and spectral characteristics, discovering 67 short sub-second X-ray bursts.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission set to reach destination.

- S Somanath confirmed that India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, is expected to reach the Lagrangian Point (L1) on January 6.
- Once at L1, Aditya-L1 will study and measure solar events for the next five years, and will provide valuable data.
- Somanath also revealed ISRO's plan to construct an Indian space station, 'Bharatiya Space Station', as part a technologically powerful country.

NASA tested innovative 3D-printed rotating detonation rocket engine.

- NASA successful test of the 3D-printed RDRE at its Marshall Space Flight Center.
- The RDRE, an advancement in propulsion technology, completed a 'hot fire test' with a 251-second burn, generating more than 5800 pounds of thrust.
- The RDRE's first hot fire test in 2022 was in collaboration with In Space LLC and Purdue University, and involved the generation of over 4000 pounds of thrust.

Nvidia, MediaTek to bring gaming, AI to car infotainment systems

- Nvidia and MediaTek announced a collaboration to develop enhanced vehicle infotainment systems capable of streaming video, gaming, and AI interactions with drivers.
- The partnership will result in MediaTek systems compatible with Nvidia-based automated driving systems, enhancing dashboard displays with environmental visuals and driver-monitoring capabilities.

Google announced AI-powered features for Maps in India

- Early next year, the company will roll out Address Descriptor, an India-first innovation to help users find locations more easily.
- Google will also offer users five landmarks in the vicinity when they drop a pin in Maps to share their location.
- To meet evolving user expectations for a richer visual mapping experience, Google will launch lens in Maps in 15 cities starting with Android.

Accenture opened genAI studio in Bengaluru

- Accenture's data and AI team and clients will co-create solutions with a modern data and AI foundation, LLM (large language model) architecture, ecosystems partnerships, talent, and responsible AI frameworks.

- The studio will develop a full stack of genAI capabilities for enterprises to leverage to optimise business processes.
- The facility will be located within Accenture's Innovation Hub.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Project started Controlled Fission Chain Reaction

- Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit-4 achieved fission chain reaction or 'criticality' on Dec 17, complying with AERB safety norms.
- This event marked progressive advancement in India's nuclear power sector, showing the design, build, and operation strengths of NPCIL.
- KAPP-4 is the 2nd in the series of sixteen indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors each being set up in the country.

Generative AI platform "Krutrim", rival to ChatGPT

- Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal's AI firm announced the launch of Generative AI platform "Krutrim", rival to ChatGPT.
- The new large language model will be trained based on 'Indian ethos and culture.'
- The model will have generative support for 10 Indian languages and will be able to take inputs in 22 languages.
- The firm will have its AI-focused system in package out by the end of 2025.

KPIT Technologies launched first ever sodium-ion battery technology

- KPIT Technologies has unveiled Sodium-ion (Na) battery technology, which aims to reduce costs by 25-30% compared to lithium-ion batteries used in EVs.
- The Na-battery boasts 80% capacity retention, offers faster charging, and is applicable in vehicles and grid storage.
- The firm seeks to decrease India's dependence on battery imports, promoting sustainability and strategic partnerships.

Indigenous Climate Forecasting System developed at IITM Pune

- The Earth System Model, known as the IITM-ESM has been indigenously developed at Centre for Climate Change Research, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- This is the first Earth System Model from India and the climate change assessment carried out using IITM-ESM, was used in the latest Sixth Assessment Report prepared by the IPCC.

Dept. of Atomic Energy and IDRS Labs to co-develop AKTOCYTE tablets

- Scientists developed AKTOCYTE tablets to minimize radiotherapy side effects and boost cancer treatment efficacy.
- Demonstrated remarkable recovery in pelvic cancer patients, preventing surgical intervention.
- Received approval from FSSAI, ensuring its quality & efficacy.
- Expected to hit the market in January 2024, adding value to cancer treatments.

"AMRIT" technology for removal of arsenic and metal ions from water

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Madras has developed a technology called 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) for the removal of Arsenic and Metal ions from water.
- The technology uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide, which selectively removes arsenic when water is passed through it.
- This water purifier has been developed for both domestic & community levels.

China launched deepest lab on Earth

- The 2,400-metre-deep physics laboratory is located in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- The Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF) is located beneath Jinping Mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture.
- It is for the global search for dark matter that appears not to interact with light or the electromagnetic field.

Budgett frog's protein can block enzymes of disease-causing pathogens

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science have identified that peptides (short protein) produced from Budgett's frog can combat enzymes of disease causing pathogens.
- Frogs are the first vertebrates to conquer the land and all other vertebrates like reptiles, mammals, and birds came after the amphibians. Because of this the frogs have developed a defensive mechanism through their skin.

IBM launched first-ever 1,000-qubit chip "Condor"

- Called Condor, the new quantum computing chip has 1,121 superconducting qubits arranged in a honeycomb pattern.
- The quantum computers are used to perform certain computations that classical computers cannot.
- These chips can easily handle problems that supercomputers are believed to take hundreds or thousands of years to solve.

IBM Releases First-Ever 1,000-Qubit Quantum Chip

- IBM has introduced Condor, its latest quantum computing chip featuring 1,121 superconducting qubits, surpassing the 1,000 qubit milestone.
- A qubit, short for a quantum bit, is the basic unit of quantum information in quantum computing.
- Unlike classical bits, which can exist in a state of 0 or 1, qubits can exist in a superposition of both 0 and 1 simultaneously.

IISER Bhopal researchers conduct first genome sequencing of jamun

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have conducted the first-ever genome sequencing of the jamun tree (*Syzygium cumini*).
- Jamun has various genes that make the plant rugged and improve its stress tolerance to factors like weeds and insects that induce damage, heat stress, salinity, and drought.

Google introduces AI Gemini, a much like Human Brain

- Google has unveiled its latest AI project, "Gemini," designed to exhibit human-like behaviour.
- The rollout will occur in phases, introducing less sophisticated versions named "Nano" and "Pro" into Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard and the Pixel 8 Pro.
- Notable advancements are expected early next year with the introduction of the "Ultra" model, powering an advanced version of Bard.

JT-60SA: World's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor

- JT-60SA, the world's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor started its official operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture.
- JT-60SA is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan.
- JT-60SA is a forerunner for its big brother in France, the under-construction International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

Akshata Krishnamurthy became the first Indian to operate Mars rover

- Dr Akshata Krishnamurthy is the first Indian citizen to operate the Mars Perseverance rover.
- She currently works for NASA as the mission science phase lead for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.
- The 'rocket scientist' obtained her Masters from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before pursuing a Doctorate at MIT.
- She had travelled to the US 13 years ago for higher studies.

Indian Railways launched Gajraj System to safeguard Elephant collision

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Railway Minister, unveiled the AI-based 'Gajraj System', a novel initiative alerting train conductors about elephants on tracks, mitigating train-animal collisions, improving rail safety and wildlife preservation.
- Deployed along a 700-km stretch of rail tracks, it has a 99.5% accuracy in elephant detection.
- It has been implemented across 11 elephant corridors in Northeast.

Aashraya Seth invented most affordable sanitary pad vending machine

- Aashraya Seth, founder of The Intelligent Indian NGO, designed India's most affordable non-electric sanitary pad vending machine at Rs. 2500 to combat girls' high dropout rates due to poor menstrual hygiene.
- Leveraging experience at IIT Bombay and advising state governments, Seth identified the need for a low-cost solution to support tribal and underserved girls' classroom participation.

ISRO To Launch Its First X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite 'XPoSat'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat); the mission aims to explore the polarisation of powerful X-ray sources, adding a valuable dimension to the country's space-based X-ray astronomy.
- The primary payload Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) developed by Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru (RRI).

IIT Guwahati launched drone tech training for armed forces officers

- IIT Guwahati has launched an innovative three-month training program on drone technology for Junior Commissioned Officers and other officers, aiming to modernize armed forces operations.
- The course facilitates post-retirement career choices for success in the burgeoning drone industry.
- It offers intense training on drone technologies, pilot training, software operations etc.



Sports Current Affairs

Katie Moon named International Event Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon

- Olympic gold medalist and two-time pole vault World Champion, Katie Moon, has been named the International Event Ambassador for Mumbai Marathon 2024.
- Moon has also won gold medals at World Athletics Championships and a top slot in Diamond League in 2023.
- Mumbai Marathon, classified as a World Athletics Gold Label Race and one of the world's top 10 marathons, will be held on January 21, 2024.

Suriya acquired ownership of Chennai in Indian Street Premier League.

- Suriya announced ownership of the Chennai team in the upcoming Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).
- ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament inside a stadium, is set for March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai.
- The tournament features six teams—Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar—with 19 high-intensity matches scheduled.

Sharvaanica became champion in two formats at Asian Youth Chess

- Eight-year-old A.S. Sharvaanica has triumphed in two categories of the Asian Youth Chess Championships, securing gold in the U-8 rapid and blitz segments.
- She also earned a silver medal in the U-8 classical category at the event held in Al Ain, UAE.
- The prestigious championship saw participation from 42 players across various age groups, hailing from 21 different countries.

Hemanth Mudappa set national record in Motorcycle Drag Racing

- Hemanth Mudappa of Mantra Racing has clinched national championship, winning in both top-two classes of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship.
- This recorded win makes Mudappa a nine-time Indian National Drag champion, securing his fifth consecutive national title in the premier Super Sport 1051cc category and bagging the national title in 851 to 1050cc class too.

Yogesh Choudhary, Deepankar Mech triumph at Shillong.

- Yogesh Choudhary and Deepankar Mech were declared Female and Male Champions, respectively, at the Shillong Armfight-All India Championship 2023.
- The championship, attended by almost 300 armwrestlers countrywide, was organized by Meghalaya Armwrestling Association and Bouncer's Association of Meghalaya.
- The event had five weight categories for both men and women.

PV Sindhu ranked 16th in Forbes list of highest paid athletes

- Forbes' 2023 list of highest-paid female athletes placed Polish tennis star Iga Świątek at the top with \$23.9 million.
- The list prominently featured tennis players, with 12 of the 20 highest-paid athletes.

- Indian badminton player PV Sindhu ranked 16th, with earnings estimated at \$7.1 million.

Manchester City made history by winning Club World Cup

- Manchester City won the Club World Cup 4-0 against Fluminense.
- The team's dominance throughout 2023 has been acknowledged by their manager Pep Guardiola and captain Kyle Walker, who believe the results prove they're the world's best.
- The final piece of the jigsaw came on a highly charged night in Saudi Arabia as Manchester City outclassed its Brazilian opponents.

Thakur sets to unveil Khelo India Youth Games logo and mascot.

- Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will launch the logo, jersey, mascot, torch, and theme song for Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu.
- The 6th edition of the games begins on January 19, 2024, hosted across Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.
- Distinguished sports icons Vishwanathan Anand, Bhavani Devi, Joshna Chinappa and S. Mareeswaran will grace the launch.

Sai Sudharsan awarded 'impact fielder of the ODI series'

- Indian cricketer Sai Sudharsan received the 'Impact Fielder of the ODI Series' medal following India's 2-1 series win against South Africa.
- Sudharsan was commended for a brilliant catch during the third ODI match, contributing to India's 78-run victory.
- The award decision was a close call between KL Rahul and Sudharsan, with Rahul generously suggesting the young batter should receive it.

Savita Punia and Hardik Singh won Prestigious FIH Awards.

- Savita Punia has been acknowledged by the Sports Minister for winning the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive time.
- Hardik Singh was hailed by Thakur for winning the 2023 FIH Player of the Year (Male), noting his precision, attack orchestration, and influence on budding hockey players.

75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship 2023 final results

- The 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship 2023 saw Maharashtra's women team and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) men's team clinching titles.
- The event took place in Guwahati.
- The AAI men's team secured victory over Karnataka 3-0, marking their dominance in the national championship.
- In the women's team event, Maharashtra defeated AAI 3-0.

Maharashtra, AAI Triumph in 75th Inter State-Zonal Badminton Meet.

- Maharashtra bags the women's title at the Championship, while Airport Authority of India triumphs in the men's category.
- Maharashtra's women's team showcased stellar performances culminating in a 3-0 win over AAI.

- The AAI men's team secured victory by outclassing Karnataka 3-0 in the finals.

Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana won Nagesh Trophy

- The ongoing sixth edition of the Nagesh Trophy - Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24 saw wins for Kerala and Odisha in Group C, and Madhya Pradesh and Telangana in Group D.
- The tournament, which began on November 23 and will continue till February 2, 2024, currently sees Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka leading Groups E and B respectively.

Amitabh Bachchan owns Mumbai team in Indian Street Premier League

- Amitabh Bachchan recently became the owner of the Mumbai team in the debut Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).
- The ISPL, India's inaugural tennis ball T10 cricket tournament set within a stadium, will run from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai featuring six teams.
- Bachchan embraces this as a fresh endeavor, expressing excitement over witnessing a surge of talent for a grand, visionary future.

IPL Auction 2024: Mitchell Starc Smashes Record, Sold to KKR for ₹25Cr

- Mitchell Starc becomes the costliest player in IPL history with a staggering ₹24.75 crore bid from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).
- Starc's bid surpasses Pat Cummins' ₹20.5 crore, setting a new benchmark in the IPL auction.
- Kolkata Knight Riders make a significant move by securing Mitchell Starc, adding firepower to their squad for the upcoming season.

Under-19 Asia Cup: Bangladesh crushed UAE to lift the trophy

- Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team won the Under-19 Asia Cup in Dubai, defeating UAE by 195 runs.
- Ashiqur Rahman Shibli, the wicketkeeper-batter, was the standout performer, scoring 129 runs and earning player of the match and series accolades.
- The ACC Under-19 Asia Cup is a cricket tournament.
- The 2023 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup was hosted by United Arab Emirates.

Harshal Patel guided Haryana to clinch Vijay Hazare Trophy title

- Harshal Patel's exceptional second spell led Haryana to the Vijay Hazare Trophy title, despite Abhijeet Tomar's century.
- All-rounder Sumit Kumar won both 'Player of Match' and 'Player of Series' for his pivotal performance.
- The Vijay Hazare Trophy, originally known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy, is an annual limited overs cricket domestic competition organised by BCCI.

Sandeep Kumar claimed MRF Formula 2000 crown

- Sandeep Kumar won the MRF Formula 2000 title.
- Chetan Surnineni won the MRF Formula 1600 title.

- The curtains came down on the fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023.
- The event was held at the Madras International Circuit.

Daniel Ebenyo and Sutume Kebede won titles in Tata Steel Kolkata 25K

- Kenyan Daniel Ebenyo and Ethiopian Sutume Kebede ran fast in perfect conditions to clinch the men's and women's titles with new World Best times for standalone events in the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K.
- Sawan Barwal (1:17:49) and Reshma Kevate (1:30:38) recorded convincing wins among Indians.
- The eighth edition of Tata Steel Kolkata 25K, partnered by The Telegraph, saw records tumbling in Kolkata

Team Bengaluru SG Mavericks won Tennis Premier League

- Vishnu Vardhan and Arina Rodionova played a vibrant mixed doubles match to beat Maria Timofeeva and Anirudh Chandrasekar 14-6.
- It helped Bengaluru SG Mavericks to a 41-28 victory over Bengal Wizards in the final of the Fifth edition of Tennis Premier League.
- The championship took place on the charcoal grey courts of the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex at Pune, Maharashtra.

Haryana dominates medal tally in Khelo India Para Games 2023.

- The first-ever Khelo India Para Games concluded in New Delhi,
- Haryana won the inaugural title by securing 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronze.
- Uttar Pradesh came second with 62 medals including 25 gold, 23 silver, and 14 bronze.
- Tamil Nadu finished third with 20 gold, eight silver, and 14 bronze medals.

Sourav Kothari clinched maiden Senior National Snooker title

- Sourav Kothari of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) won his maiden Senior National 15-Red snooker title, beating Paras Gupta of Uttar Pradesh 6-2 in the final.
- Kothari beat Md Hussain Khan (RSPB) 5-0 in the semifinals and prevailed over Gupta 58-46, 72-34, 0-64, 59-25, 61-54, 21-57, 64-8, 64-25 in the final.
- He had defeated his PSPB colleague Advani in the round-of-32.

Novak Djokovic, Aryna Sabalenka win ITF World Champion Awards 2023

- Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka were honoured as the International Tennis Federation's 2023 ITF World Champions after being the only singles players to reach at least the semifinals at all four Grand Slam tournaments this season.
- This time was Djokovic's eighth ITF World Champion award.
- Sabalenka received the honour for the first time after winning her first Grand Slam title.

67th National School Games started at Chhatrasal Stadium, New Delhi

- Delhi Sports Minister Atishi inaugurated the 67th National School Games, celebrating India's recent success at the Asian Games.

- The Directorate of Education is hosting the games this year.
- Students from 44 units, including states, union territories and other boards, are participating to showcase their sporting skills and talent.

Hardik Pandya announced as captain for the IPL 2024 season

- Mumbai Indians have announced Hardik Pandya as the captain for the 2024 IPL season
- He succeeded former captain Rohit Sharma.
- The team looks forward to leveraging his experience to strengthen Mumbai Indians in the seasons ahead.

Leander Paes, Vijay Amritraj came in International Tennis Hall of Fame

- Indian tennis legends Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes became the first Asian men to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- It has made India the 28th nation to be represented in the prestigious institution.
- Leander Paes, an 18-time Grand Slam champion in doubles and mixed doubles is honored in the Player category.
- Vijay Amritraj is honored in the Contributor category.

Khelo India Para Games Powerlifting Competition medal tally:

- Kasthuri Rajamani from Tamil Nadu muscled her way to Gold in the elite 67kg event of the Khelo India Para Games powerlifting competition in New Delhi.
- Parul Gohil of Gujarat won Silver and Sumandeep from Punjab won Bronze.
- In the 73 kg category, Reshma Mogil from Gujarat won Gold with a lift of 72 kg. The silver was won by Sahista of Delhi, bronze medal went to Maya from Rajasthan, at 57 kg.

Khelo India Para Games 2023 Shooting Competition medal tally

- Manish Narwal claimed Gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 event.
- Rudransh Khandelwal claimed the Silver medal in the same category.
- Manish, who suffers from an infirmity in his right hand ever since he was a child, attained a score that surpassed his Gold-medal winning score of 239.7 in the same category which he had achieved at the Lima 2023 World Shooting Para Sport Championships.

UWW named U20 woman wrestler Antim Panghal as Rising Star of Year 2023

- Indian wrestler Antim Panghal was named the Rising Star of the Year among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW).
- The 19-year-old Indian competing in the 53 kg category, has had a stellar season, replete with accomplishments and accolades, and has overshadowed senior star Vinesh Phogat.
- Hailing from Haryana, she is the only two-time junior world champion for India.

Kerala Blasters FC's Vibin Mohanan named emerging player of the month

- Kerala Blasters FC's Vibin Mohanan earned the Emerging Player of the Month award for November 2023 in the Indian Super League following stellar performances.

- Mohanan outperformed FC Goa's Jay Gupta, also a strong contender, earning the award through countback.
- This achievement makes Mohanan the second recipient of the award, succeeding Jay Gupta who bagged the award in October 2023.

Suryakumar strengthened 1st position in ICC T20 batter rankings

- Suryakumar Yadav consolidated his position at the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings after being rewarded for his quickfire half-century against South Africa in the second T20I in Gqeberha, South Africa.
- Suryakumar now has a total of 865 rating points, which is well clear of his nearest rivals -- Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan and South Africa's Aiden Markram.

Mohammed Shami recommended for Arjuna Award by BCCI

- Pacer Mohammed Shami has been recommended for 2023 Arjuna Award by the country's cricket board (BCCI).
- The 33-year-old had a spectacular run in the ODI World Cup, where India finished second best losing to Australia in the final.
- A special request was made by the BCCI to the Sports Ministry to include Shami's name.
- Arjuna award is the country's second-highest sporting honour.

Zinc Football Academy bagged AIFF's topmost 'Elite 3-Star Rating'

- Zinc Football Academy of Rajasthan has been ranked as one of the best football academies in India by the All India Football Federation.
- The footballers get daily access to state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities, education, nutrition, hostel and top-notch training – all provided completely free of cost in this academy.
- Zinc Football Academy is a CSR initiative of Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

Khelo India National Para Games 2023 medal tally:

- Jaspreet Kaur won Gold medal in the elite 45kg category paralifting.
- Yogesh Kathuniya of Haryana bagged a Gold in the discus throw for F56 category.
- Nehal Gupta of Uttar Pradesh clinched Gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category by defeating Bihar's Umesh Vikram Kumar.
- Naveen Sivakumar of Tamil Nadu beat Chhattisgarh's Abhijeet Sakhuja in men's singles SL4 category to win Gold.

Travis Head selected as ICC Players of the Month for November

- Nahida Akter of Bangladesh also claimed her first Women's Player of the Month prize following strong bowling displays in ODI series triumph over Pakistan.
- Australia's Travis Head is crowned the ICC Men's Player of the Month for November after winning Cricket World Cup with Player of the Match contributions in both the semi-final win over South Africa, and the final victory over India.

ATP Rankings: Novak Djokovic ends year at No.1 for record 8th time

- Twenty-four-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic concluded the 2023 ATP season by securing the year-end No. 1 spot for a record eighth time.
- The 36-year-old Serbian tennis star sealed his dominance by winning the ATP Finals in Turin.
- He secured his record-breaking 24th Grand Slam title at the US Open and finished as the runner-up at Wimbledon.

ICC Rankings: Ravi Bishnoi becomes world's No.1 T20I bowler

- Young Indian leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi rose to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart.
- The 23-year-old was India's go-to bowler in the just-concluded series against Australia, taking nine wickets from five games.
- Bishnoi, who is on 699 rating points, has jumped five places to displace Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (692) from the top slot.

Ruturaj Gaikwad became the fastest Indian to 4,000 T20 runs

- Ruturaj Gaikwad became the fastest Indian to score 4000 runs in men's T20 cricket, achieving the milestone during the 4th T20I against Australia.
- Registering 4000 runs in just 116 innings, Gaikwad surpassed previous record holder, KL Rahul, who reached this goal in 117 innings.
- It placed him ahead of Virat Kohli, the 3rd fastest Indian to this feat, who scored 4000 runs in 138 T20 innings.

Vaishali Rameshbabu became India's 84th grandmaster

- R Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali Rameshbabu made history as the first brother-sister duo to hold the prestigious Grandmaster title in chess.
- Vaishali, at 22, gained the Grandmaster title during the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain, crossing the 2500 FIDE ratings.
- With this feat, Vaishali has become India's third female Grandmaster, marking a significant achievement in Indian chess.

Scheffler saunters to maiden Hero World Challenge title

- World number one golfer Scottie Scheffler's measured approach on the final day helped him win his maiden Hero World Challenge title as tournament host Tiger Woods completed his spirited comeback.
- The 27-year-old from Dallas had finished runner-up to Viktor Hovland in the previous two seasons.
- Scheffler pocketed USD 1 million for his effort.

Abhinav Choudhary becomes rapid-fire national champion

- Rajasthan's Abhinav Choudhary clinched the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) title at the ongoing 66th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for Pistol events, here at Bhopal's M.P. State Shooting Academy range.
- Vijayveer along with Rajkanwar and twin brother Udhayveer won the junior team gold.

Reports and Indices Current Affairs

Monthly Revision December: Index and Reports - I

- India topped global remittance charts at \$125 billion in 2023
- Andhra Pradesh ranked 1st in agri-marketing reforms: Niti Aayog
- Maharashtra, largest state economy in India, U.P. at 2nd
- Hyderabad ranked 1st in food adulteration cases: NCRB report
- "Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023" Report
- Adani Green Energy ranked 2nd-largest solar PV developer: Mercom

Monthly Revision December: Index and Reports - II

- At 220, Delhi University India's top in QS sustainability rankings
- WHO report - India accounted for 66% malaria cases in South-East Asia
- India ranked 7th in Climate Change Performance Index 2023
- NITI Aayog releases the 1st Delta Ranking of ABP
- Pakistan: Lahore tops global pollution ranking again
- Four Indians On Forbes' List Of Most Powerful Women For 2023

Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai host over 20% of India's crypto investments.

- Over 20% of India's cryptocurrency investments are concentrated in Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai, revealed 2023 investor report by CoinSwitch.
- Around 75% of crypto investors are under 35 years old, while women make up 9% of India's crypto investor base.
- Dogecoin, Bitcoin, and Ethereum were the most invested cryptocurrencies of the year.

Women participation in NREGS continues to rise, 59% this fiscal

- Women's representation in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has reached a 10-year high with 59.25% participation in 2023-24.
- The female participation rate, expressed as the percentage of person-days, has gradually risen from 54.78% in 2019-20, and 53.19% during the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020-21.
- Confirmation of this trend came from the Periodic Labour Force Survey.

India at high risk of cyber attacks: PwC's 2023 Global Risk Survey

- Cyber threats are the primary risk for Indian organizations, with 38% feeling highly exposed, according to PwC's 2023 Global Risk Survey.
- To mitigate these risks, over 55% of respondents plan to invest in cybersecurity tools & AI/machine learning.
- 71% of Indian firms are using cybersecurity and IT data for risk management and opportunity identification to avert risk, the survey highlighted.

Kerala most preferred state to work in India: India Skills Report 2024

- Two cities, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, in Kerala have emerged as the most preferred places to work among the youth in India, according to the India Skills Report 2024.

- The report indicated that employability in India has improved as 51.25% of the youth surveyed are employable with the required skills.
- Kochi is the 1st among the top 10 cities where most women prefer to work.

PV Sindhu ranked 16th in Forbes list of highest paid athletes

- Forbes' 2023 list of highest-paid female athletes placed Polish tennis star Iga Świątek at the top with \$23.9 million.
- The list prominently featured tennis players, with 12 of the 20 highest-paid athletes.
- Indian badminton player PV Sindhu ranked 16th, with earnings estimated at \$7.1 million.

Manav Rachna institute achieved QS five-star rating in seven areas

- The institute gets overall 4-star and 5-star ratings in Teaching, Employability, Academic Development, and more.
- QS rating recognizes the institute's student-friendly infrastructure and commitment to inclusivity.
- Dr Prashant Bhalla, President of MREI, vows to continue focusing on student career advancement and academic excellence.

Massive growth in civil aviation: Ministry's Year-End 2023 review.

- UDAN scheme: 60 new routes commenced, 6 airports operationalised, 154 new routes awarded.
- Digi Yatra: Over 35 lakh users download the app and more than 91 lakh passengers use the service.
- Proliferation of Greenfield airports: Operationalisation of 3 more Greenfield airports and strengthening of infrastructure and personnel in the sector including 456 additional posts of ATC.

Afghan: over a million children suffer severe malnutrition - WHO

- The WHO stated more than 1 million Afghan children face severe malnutrition, with an urgent need for \$185 million to battle this.
- Reports indicate the number of malnourished mothers and children has slightly increased compared to previous years.
- Doctors from Indira Gandhi Hospital in Kabul report an upsurge in malnutrition cases, with 20 to 25 children seeking treatment every day.

Decrease in crime cases against women passengers over Indian Railways

- NCRB data for 2022 signifies a decrease in crime against women on Indian Railways compared to 2019.
- Various precautionary measures have been implemented, including CCTV surveillance in coaches and stations, the Rail Madad Portal for complaints, and the 'Meri Saheli' initiative for women travelling alone.
- Rs 200 crore has been allocated in the NIRBHAYA fund to strengthen women's safety.

Steady improvement in indicators for malnutrition: NFHS Report

- National Health Family Survey 2019-21 report marked that the Stunting reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, while Wasting reduced from 21.0% to 19.3%.

- According to the Poshan Tracker data for November 2023, initiatives under Mission Poshan 2.0 are making strides in combatting malnutrition, with around 7.44 crore children under 6 years measured.

NITI Aayog report: Green, Sustainable Growth Agenda for Global Economy

- NITI Aayog, in partnership with the International Development Research Centre and Global Development Network, published a report, 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy' based on the proceedings of the G20 international conference.
- This report highlighted the need of climate financing and technological assistance to help the Global South countries tackle climate change.

India topped global remittance charts at \$125 billion in 2023

- The World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief revealed the report.
- Remittances to low-and middle-income countries grew by an estimated 3.8% in 2023, totaling USD 669 billion.
- First - India (USD 125 billion).
- Second - Mexico (USD 67 billion).
- Third - China (USD 50 billion).
- Fourth - Philippines (USD 40 billion).
- Fifth - Egypt (USD 24 billion).

Andhra Pradesh ranked 1st in agri-marketing reforms: Niti Aayog

- Andhra Pradesh has secured the first spot with a score of 94 in this year's reform index released recently by the Aayog.
- With a score of 92, U.P. has been ranked second.
- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have performed better than other Indian states.
- Niti Aayog launched the index in 2016 to rank states and UTs based on the implementation of provisions proposed under the model APMC Act.

Child marriage stagnating in India; Study says 1 in 5 girls married

- A study in 'The Lancet Global Health' journal revealed that one in five girls and one in six boys in India are married, with progress to eliminate child marriage stagnating recently.
- Girl child marriages increased in six states, including Manipur, Punjab, Tripura, and West Bengal, while eight states, including Chhattisgarh, Goa, Manipur, and Punjab, witnessed a rise in boy child marriages.

Maharashtra, largest state economy in India, U.P. at 2nd

- Maharashtra leads with a GDP share of 15.7 percent of the country's total GDP, Uttar Pradesh follows closely with a GDP share of 9.2 percent.
- Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the second-largest economy of India.
- Tamil Nadu bagged 3rd position with 9.1% of India's GDP share.
- Gujarat (8.2 %), and West Bengal (7.5 %) bagged the 4th and 5th spot respectively.

Unemployment rate in India shows a declining trend: Annual PLFS Report

- The unemployment rate in India has steadily decreased from 4.2% in 2020-21 to 3.2% in 2022-23, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.
- To facilitate employment, Govt has announced several schemes such as ABRY, PM SVANidhi Scheme, PMMY, and PLI scheme, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and skill development.

India is contributing more than 16 % of global growth, says IMF

- India's robust growth due to key sector reforms, such as digitisation and infrastructure, has made it a star performer, according to the International Monetary Fund.
- The IMF predicts India will contribute over 16% to global growth in current year, making it one of the fastest-growing large emerging markets.
- India's prudent macroeconomic policies is the major growth driver, says the report.

Hyderabad ranked 1st in food adulteration cases: NCRB report

- Hyderabad came first in India in food adulteration cases, with 246 out of 291 reported in 2022, as per NCRB data.
- In 2022, a total of 291 cases of food adulteration were reported across 19 major cities in India.
- Despite public health risks from adulterated food, the accused in these cases don't involve minors working in adulteration units.

"Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023" Report:

- The LEADS 2023 Report has been published by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- Achievers: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, TN, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, UP, Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, Delhi.
- Fast Movers: Kerala, Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Puducherry.
- Aspirers: Goa, Odisha, WB, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, HP, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram.

World Bank's International Debt Report

- The report said, developing countries spent nearly \$500 billion to service their external public debt in 2022.
- Debt-service payments increased by 5% to a record \$443.5 billion due to a surge in global interest rates; they're predicted to rise 10% in 2023-2024.
- The 75 poorest countries are hardest hit, their debt payments reaching a record \$88.9 billion in 2022, risking a major debt crisis.

A quarter of world's freshwater fish species towards extinction: IUCN

- The IUCN Red List update reveals that 25% of freshwater fish are at risk of extinction, with 17% of these threatened species affected by climate change.
- It highlighted the impact of illegal logging and trade on mahogany and risk of extinction for Central South Pacific and East Pacific green turtles.

- The update underscored immediate actions to restrain global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Number of women voters projected to outstrip men voters in 2029: SBI

- The SBI report predicted that, in 2024, total voter turnout at the current rate of polling can touch 68 crores, of which 49% can be women.
- It further said, in 2029, total voter turnout at the current rate of polling could touch 73 crore, of which women voters at 37 crore could be outstripping men voters at 36 crore.
- The SBI's Economic Research Department (ERD) has published the report.

Road crash deaths down globally, but continue to rise in India: WHO

- The annual global count of road traffic deaths decreased by 5% to 1.19 million, as per the World Health Organization's Global Status Report on Road Safety.
- More than two deaths occur per minute, totaling over 3,200 per day.
- Despite the global reduction, road traffic deaths continue to rise in India, and remain the leading cause of death for children and youth aged five to 29 years.

Aster Medcity ranked 'No.1 Emerging Hospital' in India

- Aster Medcity, a unit of Aster DM Healthcare in Kochi, Kerala, won the 'Best Multi-specialty Hospital Emerging' category in The Week-Hansa Research 2023.
- The hospital is known for performing various successful surgeries and conducting breakthrough medical procedures.
- Aster Medcity has become the first JCI accredited multispecialty hospital in Kerala, and has earned Green OT Certification.

Shah Rukh Khan topped UK's 2023 South Asian celebrity list

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, referred to as the King Khan of the Indian film industry, has topped a UK list of the 'Top 50 Asian Celebrities in the World'.
- The 58-year-old actor, who had double box-office success this year with action thrillers "Pathaan" and "Jawan", is currently preparing for the Christmas release of comedy drama "Dunki".

Zepto founders top Hurun India's list of 'Top 100 under 30'

- Quick commerce app Zepto's founders Kaivalya Vohra (21 years) and Aadit Palicha (22 years) were on top of the Hurun India's inaugural edition of the 'Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023' showcasing 100 Indian entrepreneurs aged 30 years and below.
- Zepto, the brainchild of Vohra and Palicha, stands out for its commitment to delivering a diverse array of products within minutes.

EPFO added 28.69 lakh net women members in FY23

- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund of India (EPFO) recorded a net new women subscribers addition of nearly 28.69 lakh in FY23 against 15.94 lakh in 2019-20.
- The estimated female unemployment rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in the country declined to 2.9% in 2022-23 from 4.2% in 2019-20, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey.

India's logistics cost to GDP is 8-9%: Report

- A report by National Council of Applied Economic Research shows that India's logistics costs are between 7.8-8.9% of the national GDP.
- The government plans to lower this by 5 points by 2030.
- National Logistics Policy implemented aiming at enhancing last-mile delivery, minimizing transport issues.
- DPIIT aims to improve India's ranking in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index to below 25th

National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India:

- The national survey showed prevalence of psychoactive substance use among Indians, highest in alcohol (1.3% children, 17.1% adults).
- Other substances include cannabis, opioids, sedatives common among varied age groups.
- Inhalants, cocaine, hallucinogens have lower prevalence, yet have a lot of users.
- Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan reached 10.72cr people, raising awareness about substance abuse.

Over 30% dengue seroprevalence among Kerala's children: Lancet study

- A study published in The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia journal has found a dengue seroprevalence of 30.9 per cent among children aged 9–12 and 24.6 per cent in 5–8-year-olds in Kerala.
- The study unveiled a nuanced landscape of dengue prevalence among children aged 5–12, shedding light on the complex dynamics of the mosquito-borne viral disease.

Hyderabad among India's best cities: Mercer's quality of living index

- Hyderabad at 153, Pune at 154 and Bengaluru in the 156th position are the three highest placed among Indian cities in Mercer's worldwide quality of living ranking for 2023.
- it has rated Vienna in Austria at the top of the list.
- Chennai is the fourth Indian city in the list at the 161 spot followed by Mumbai at 164.
- Kolkata and New Delhi ranked 170 and 172 respectively.

Asia, Europe, Africa, Middle East at greatest risk of heart diseases

- The researchers from the National Institutes of Health and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, US revealed this report.
- Globally, heart-disease related deaths increased from 12.4 million in 1990 to 19.8 million in 2022, signifying high rates of such illnesses.
- The researchers found these after analysing data from across 21 regions.

State of Finance for Nature report launched by UNEP at COP28 summit

- According to a recent UN report titled "State of Finance for Nature," nations spend around \$7 trillion a year on subsidies and private initiatives that have a direct detrimental influence on the environment.
- This startling number, which represents 7% of the world's GDP, emphasizes how urgently financial practices must change.

- The report was presented by the UN Environment Program at 28th COP

Early Warnings for All - Executive Action Plan 2023-2027 released

- The UN's Early Warnings for All initiative, part of the Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda, propels climate justice efforts.
- Aligning with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, it addressed key social and environmental challenges, including poverty, hunger, health, water, clean energy, climate action, and urban sustainability.

Chandrayaan, Jawan & IPL topped in India's 2023 Google search

- India's G20 presidency and Karnataka Election Results topped in 'What Is' search queries.
- Top 'How To' searches included preventing sun damage and improving car mileage with a focus on tech and self-care.
- Sports dominated searches with Cricket World Cup queries and Women's Premier League ranking high.
- Vietnam was the most searched travel destination.

PM Modi most popular global leader with 76% approval: Morning Consult

- Morning Consult survey, a US based intelligence company said, 76% of respondents approved PM Modi's leadership, while only 18% disapproved.
- Mexican leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador secured 2nd place in the popularity chart with a 66% approval rating, while 29% expressed disapproval.
- Swiss leader Alain Berset secured 3rd spot, received a 58% approval rating, with 28% expressing disapproval.

Adani Green Energy ranked 2nd-largest solar PV developer: Mercom

- Adani Green Energy Ltd. with its total solar capacity of 18.1 GW ranked second after France-based TotalEnergies, which holds a total capacity of 41.3 GW.
- AGEL's rank reflected its contributions and robust performance in the renewable energy sector.
- Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communications and research firm. It made the report based on data compiled from July 2022 to June 2023.

India ranked 4th in number of startups raised over \$50 mn funding

- The US (7,184), China (1,491) and the UK (623) completed the podium ahead of India.
- There are 12,400 startups in the world which have raised over \$50 Mn or more in funding, of which 429 are from India.
- The above informations were said by the Startup Genome's Scaleup Report.
- India's 429 startups that fit the metric raised a total investment of \$127 Bn, with a cumulative valuation of \$446 Bn.

Aster received highest ESG ranking among healthcare companies: Crisil

- Aster DM Healthcare achieved significant reduction of 6,824 tonnes CO2 net emissions in FY23 by integrating renewable energy sources, water conservation, and waste management in their operations.
- Through their corporate social initiatives, Aster DM Healthcare influenced over 4 million lives, providing healthcare outreach for the underprivileged and carrying out environmental initiatives.

Lucknow second among 4 U.P. cities with most road mishap deaths

- Lucknow is among seven UP cities, which have a population of over 10 lakh, road accidents reported in Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur and Prayagraj have been the most fatal, suggests the recently released data of the National Crime Records Bureau of 2022.
- In the number of fatalities in road accidents, UP stands top on the list, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Thierry Delaporte, highest paid CEO in India

- Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte emerged as the highest paid CEO in India, as per his salary package listed in the company filings for FY23.
- Delaporte was born in France and has an three decades of experience in the global IT sector.
- Zerodha founders Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath emerged as the highest-paid CEO and director of a startup firm, drawing in a salary of ₹72 crore.

At 220, Delhi University India's top in QS sustainability rankings

- Delhi University (DU) has been ranked 220th globally and is the top Indian university in the "QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024."
- The University of Toronto, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Manchester are the top three sustainable universities globally.
- India has 56 institutions in the ranking, with 22 in the top 700.

WHO report - India accounted for 66% malaria cases in South-East Asia

- In 2022, India accounted for 66% of malaria cases in South-East Asia Region, World Malaria Report 2023 said.
- It has been published by the World Health Organization.
- It added that almost 46% of all cases in the region were due to Plasmodium vivax.
- This region accounted for about 2% of malaria cases globally while malaria cases declined by 76%, from 23 million in 2000 to 5 million in 2022.

India ranked 7th in Climate Change Performance Index 2023

- India ranked 7th in this year's Climate Change Performance Index, up one spot from the previous one, and also remained among the highest performers.
- The report was released during COP28 summit.
- India has received a high ranking in the greenhouse gas emissions and Energy Use categories, but a medium in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, as in the previous year.

NITI Aayog releases the 1st Delta Ranking of ABP

- Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana secured the top position in the first delta rankings of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) announced by NITI Aayog.
- The second position was bagged by Kaushambi block of Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh.
- The rankings were announced in a virtual event at NITI Aayog.

Pakistan: Lahore tops global pollution ranking again

- Lahore has the worst air quality in the world, with an early air quality index (AQI) of 400, which is considered "hazardous".
- The five types of pollution that are used to compute the AQI are particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and ground-level ozone.
- Lahore is the second-biggest metropolis in Pakistan.

India Infrastructure Report 2023 released

- The India Infrastructure Report 2023 on Urban Planning and Development was recently released virtually.
- The report is a collaborative effort by the IDFC Foundation, Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd. (iDeCK), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- It covers various complex issues related to urban planning and development.

Four Indians On Forbes' List Of Most Powerful Women For 2023

- Business magazine Forbes has released its annual list of the World's Most Powerful Women for 2023, and it features four Indians.
- To determine the rank, Forbes had four metrics: money, media, impact and spheres of influence.
- Nirmala Sitharaman (ranked 32), Roshni Nadar Malhotra (ranked 60), Soma Mondal (ranked 70), Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (ranked 76).

Crimes against women in U.P. '180 times higher' than national average

- The highest number of trials in 7,991 POCSO cases were completed in Uttar Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh (5,404) and Tamil Nadu (2,445) were ranked second and third.
- For the fourth consecutive year, Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest conviction rate in cases of violence against women.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data 2022 released such shocking reports.

Kolkata declared safest in India for 3rd consecutive year: NCRB report

- According to NCRB report, Kolkata had registered 103.4 cases of cognisable crimes per lakh people in 2021, which dropped to 86.5 in 2022. In 2020, the count was 129.5.
- The city's crime rate has been steadily declining since 2016, thanks to implementation of technology by Kolkata Police.
- With a cognisable offence count of 86.5 per 1 lakh population, Kolkata is far ahead of second best Pune.

ICC Cricket World Cup, Pathan & Jawan among most searched in Wikipedia

- According to data released by the Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit that hosts Wikipedia, English Wikipedia received over 84 billion views this year alone and the top five articles of the year were ChatGPT, followed in second place by Deaths in 2023, the 2023 Cricket World Cup in third place, the Indian Premier League on the fourth spot and the film Oppenheimer.

India's per capita emissions less than half of global average in 2022

- India's per capita carbon dioxide emissions rose by around five per cent in 2022 to reach 2 tonnes but these were still less than half of the global average, according to a report.
- According to the Global Carbon Project, a group of international scientists, the United States topped the per capita emissions chart with every individual in the country emitting 14.9 tonnes of CO₂ (carbon dioxide)

Art Review included Bose Krishnamachari in its 'Power 100' list

- Artist-curator Bose Krishnamachari, co-founder of Kochi Biennale, has been named amongst the world's most influential art personalities in the 'Power 100' list by Art Review, a renowned international magazine.
- Krishnamachari, ranked 38th, is noted for his distinctive approach in driving the Kochi Biennale that integrates global art with regional synthesis.

Crimes against women, children rose by 4%, 8.7% in 2022: NCRB report

- The crimes against women, children, senior citizens, SC, and ST rose by 4%, 8.7%, 9.3%, 13.1%, and 14.3% while the economic offences increased by 11.1%, corruption by 10.5% and cyber crimes by 24.4% in 2022, according to the latest NCRB annual report.
- The NCRB report titled "Crime in India 2022" is based on data collected from 36 states and Union territories as well as central agencies.

Radhakishan Damani topped Hurun's list of 200 self-made entrepreneurs

- Radhakishan Damani, veteran investor and founder of retail chain D-Mart, leads the list of the Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2023.
- He has a market capitalisation of Rs 2.38 lakh crore.
- He is followed closely by Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal, founders of e-commerce behemoth Flipkart.
- IDFC FIRST Private Hurun India's report highlighted the above points.

"2023 Global Snapshot on HIV and AIDS" - report published by UNICEF

The report says:

- Despite progress, adolescent girls continue to bear the brunt of the HIV epidemic with 98,000 new infections in 2022.
- Nearly 98000 adolescent girls aged 10-19 were infected with HIV in 2022; or 1900 new infections every week
- In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence among adolescent girls aged 10-24 years, is persistently over 3 times higher than among their male counterparts.

Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2023

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2023.
- Analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 226 assessment units in the country compared with 2022 assessment data.
- Out of total 6553 assessment units, 4793 units categorized as 'Safe'.

Forbes releases first-ever 'Hall of Shame' list

- For the first time, Forbes has come out with its "Hall of Shame" list, highlighting 10 individuals from legions of people it named '30 Under 30', who have taken a "dubious path".
- Sam Bankman-Fried, Caroline Ellison, Nate Paul, Charlie Javice, Cody Wilson, Martin Shkreli, Steph Korey, Lucas Duplan, Phadria Prendergast, James O'Keefe.

India ranks 49th in IMD's World Digital Competitiveness Ranking

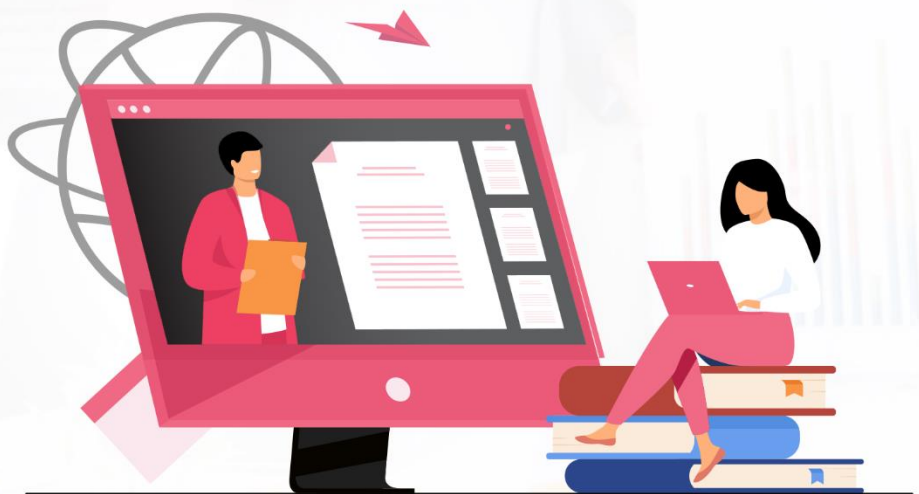
- The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) has published the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), in which India ranks 49th among 64 economies.
- According to IMD's study, India has made significant in terms of cybersecurity knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness.
- US tops the list, followed by the Netherlands and Singapore.

Unemployment rate drops to 6.6% in urban areas in Q1: PLFS Survey

- Urban unemployment rate in April-June, 1st quarter of this fiscal, slid to 6.6 per cent.
- The quarterly bulletin of Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation indicated the change.
- The PLFS gave estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators based on Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio, Unemployment Rate, etc.



अब घर बैठे कीजिये सरकारी नौकरी की तैयारी, वो भी आधी कीमत में।



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